JUDGE MASAJI MARUMOTO

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

JUDGE MASAJI MARUMOTO

(1906 -)

Judge Marumoto describes his childhood on the Big Island and his early education there and in Honolulu, followed by his graduation from the University of Chicago and Harvard Law School in 1930. He recounts his experiences on the mainland and the early years of his law practice in Honolulu.

He tells of his time spent during World War II, following his enlistment into the Army as a private. His unique position as an officer of Japanese ancestry in the Judge Advocate's office is recalled, along with the direct effects of the war on his family members.

The Judge also discusses some of the cases he handled during the years he served on the Supreme Court of Hawaii. Mrs. Marumoto joins her husband to tell of her family background, their courtship, marriage and family life.

INTERVIEW WITH JUDGE MASAJI MARUMUTO

At his 1001 Wilder Avenue apartment, Honolulu, Hawaii

June 19, 1985

M: Masaji Marumoto
SM: Shigeko Marumoto
S: Lila Sahney

S: Let's start at the very beginning. Why not, just for the record, give me your whole name.

M: Masaji Marumoto.

S: No middle name.

M: No middle name.

S: And you were born in Honolulu, in Kakaako. Is that correct?

M: That is right. On Kewalo Street.

S: Your parents were living in Kakaako at that time?

M: What happened was this. My father came to work on a sugar plantation on one of twenty-six ships which brought 29,069 Japanese sugar plantation laborers between February 8, 1885 and 1894. He came on the sixth ship which arrived in Honolulu on November 14, 1888 and out of the 29,069 laborers, he was number 5,140.

S: What was the name of the ship? Was it one of the Maru ships?

M: Takasago Maru. It arrived in Honolulu on November 14, 1888. Then four days later Father was shipped over to Paauhau plantation near Honakaa on the island of Hawaii. In those days there was no good road from Hilo to Paauhau, no harbor on the Hamakua side, so what was done was the ship would stop right below the cliff near Paauhau and the passengers would be hauled up to the land by chain.

S: Off the Hamakua coast. How dangerous!

M: Dangerous, but that was the only way they could get up to the land.

S: How old was your father when he arrived?

M: He was twenty-five. He was one of the older ones to come to Hawaii because in Japan the oldest son usually remained. Only the younger ones left the home village. But my father was, of the nine brothers and sisters, the oldest.

S: How did they let him get away or did he just run away?

M: I think he was one of those fellows who just was adventurous, because before he came to Hawaii I understand he used to go fishing way out in the China Sea.

S: Was his family in Japan of fisher people?

M: I really don't know. I don't think so, but anyway he would have inherited a big chunk of land. However, he came here.

S: They were principally farmers, were they?

M: Yes. Everybody came on three-year contracts, but he stayed four years beyond the contract period. Seven years in Paauhau and then he came out to Honolulu to work at a Japanese store in Chinatown.

S: Do you know the name of the store?

M: Shimamoto store, first in Chinatown, and then one year after he came to Honolulu, there was the Chinatown fire. But before that, after working for two and a half years at Shimamoto Store, he decided to go back to Japan. Whether he decided to go back to Japan because his father found a bride for him, I do not know. My suspicion is that he went because his father, my grandfather, had already selected his bride, because about one month before he reached his village home in Hiroshima, my mother was already in my father's family record, which meant that she was already his bride.

S: They had engaged her?

M: No, she was already his wife according to Japanese law. When my father left Japan, my mother was only seven years old. She was born in 1881. He came here in 1888. My father was born in 1863. So there was a big difference in age between my mother and father.

S: Where in Hiroshima was his village located?

M: Well, it's in Hiroshima Prefecture, but very few would know the name of the village because it was on a small island.

S: So your father went home then to get married?

M: No, to be with his wife who had already been selected by his father. She was already in the family record. Then whether he intended to remain in Japan, or because of the Chinatown fire he was called back by his employer, I do not know. But he left my mother, who was pregnant, in Japan and rushed back to Honolulu after nine months. The store in which he worked had changed its place of business from Chinatown to Kakaako on Kewalo Street.

S: Did your father live in Kakaako then to be near the store?

M: He did. He came back alone. Then a year later my mother came with my sister, who was born in Japan. My father worked at the store for another seven years. Then a person who came from the same Hiroshima village, who had a store in Kona, said, "I want to go back to Japan and I have a store in Kona. If you want to buy it, I'll sell it to you for $700." He had that amount saved, so he became a Kona merchant and went over to Kona with my mother, older sister, who was born in Japan, my second sister, who was born in Kakaako, and me. I was one and a half years old then.

S: Had he ever seen Kona before?

M: No.

S: He bought this whole thing sight unseen?

M: Blind.

S: He was a gambler.

M: Yes, he was. My sister, when her memory was better, had written down what happened at that time and said I was one and a half years old, so in her memoirs she wrote down, "Masaji just crawled on the deck of the ship on the way to Kona." (laughter)

S: How long did it take to go by ship to Kona?

M: Overnight. Left Honolulu at noon and then arrived at Kailua the following morning.

S: A rough trip.

M: A rough trip. And then because there were hardly any stores nearby, in the earlier years he prospered.

S: Is that store still there today?

M: The building is still there. Nobody is using it. It's on a leasehold of the Henriques' estate and if you go to Kona, there is right next to the building where my father's store was located, a theatre still marked "Kona Theatre." It is not used as a theater now, but that Kona Theatre was built by my father.

S: Is it near the Manago Hotel?

M: About two hundred yards toward Kau side. On the makai side of the road.

S: How interesting. Do you still own the land or the lease?

M: No, that was leased from Henriques. Portuguese. Henriques owned quite a bit of land around there.

S: Your father had a store and was there a residence attached to the store or upstairs or next door?

M: What happened is that he had about two acres of leased land. The store was on the road side, makai side of the road, and then he used to sleep sort of...well, the front side was only one story high, below was a warehouse for rice and so forth and then the sleeping quarters.

S: Down with the warehouse?

M: Yes, I grew up there, and then after he made some money he built a separate building, but he never lived there, still lived below.

S: In the basement? Your mother cooked and brought up children there?

M: That is right. But my oldest sister didn't like Kona. She was already seven years old and she told my father to send her to Kakaako. So she went to school in Kakaako.

S: What was your oldest sister's name?

M: Tamako.

S: So your oldest sister then was sent to Kakaako to friends?

M: Yes, to the principal. Kakaako Japanese School principal's, and then was educated there. Then when my mother died, my other older sister, the second daughter, was also sent to Kakaako.

S: How old was the second daughter when your mother died?

M: When my mother died, she was seven. And the funny thing is, they came back for summer vacation. Then the ship would be anchored in Kailua, about fifteen miles north of my father's store. The ship would not dock alongside the wharf. You had to go on a whale boat to the ship and in those days cattle was more important than people, you know. So they loaded the cattle first, then passengers. My sister, the second daughter, wouldn't get on the boat; she just rebelled. So my father asked a neighbor of ours to take me back to the store because he had to take his two daughters to Honolulu, and jumped on the boat with my two older sisters.

Then soon after that, we got a telegram from Honolulu saying that my second sister was sick. Then about three hours later, we got another telegram saying that she had died.

S: Do you remember those telegrams coming?

M: I don't. I was only five years old. But I went to Honolulu with my father. In those days the ship came to Kailua only once in ten days. So, my father wrapped me up in a blanket about midnight, and with horse and buggy we just trudged along to Kamuela. We reached Kamuela about noon to my father's friend's store. We had lunch there, and then we went down to Kawaihae to get on a ship to my sister's funeral.

S: Did the ship come more frequently to Kawaihae than to Kailua?

M: Kawaihae was twice a week because a ship went to Hilo twice a week and then on the way back, it would stop in Kawaihae, but it would never go to Kailua. The Kailua ship came only once in ten days.

S: Now it's just the reverse. The planes hardly go to Kamuela, but there are so many that go to Kona.

M: That's right. And so that's how we went to the funeral. And I think I wrote in my memoirs, the first time I went to Honolulu that I remember was, I think, my father had some business to do in Honolulu, so he took me over and I was only about five years old.

S: That's the first memory you have.

M: Yes, and then he told me, "I'm going to give you a dollar and you're going to meet the lady who brought you into this world." That was the Hawaiian midwife. So I gave her the dollar, and then that night my father left me at the

principal's home where my sisters were. I cried all night long until midnight.

S: Even though your sisters were there, you were still homesick for your father.

M: Yes. My father stayed with the wholesale merchant who had his home right near where Queen's Hospital is now. Actually, right where the Department of Education Building is, Liliuokalani Building. So the principal had to order a horsedrawn hack at midnight to take me over to this merchant's home because I wouldn't sleep. I just cried.

S: You wanted your father.

M: Yes.

S: How did your father get his supplies for his store? Did salesmen come or would he order them from wholesale merchants in Honolulu by letter?

M: The main supplies were from Hackfeld. It had branches in Napoopoo and Kailua. The store in Kailua was the main one, and the store in Napoopoo was the one that supplied my father. If Napoopoo didn't have the merchandise, my father would go to Kailua, but most of the supplies came from Hackfeld in Napoopoo.

S: Which was pre-American Factors?

M: Yes, pre-American Factors, and the manager was a Portuguese fellow. My father never spoke English, but I suppose among the Japanese very few spoke Hawaiian as fluently as he did. He spoke nothing but Hawaiian with this Portuguese manager of the Napoopoo branch.

S: They all spoke Hawaiian then?

M: All spoke Hawaiian.

S: No Portuguese?

M: No. That manager was the father of Herman Luis who had an insurance agency here in Honolulu.

S: Oh, yes.

M: And they would be speaking only in Hawaiian and then, if his branch didn't have any supplies and Father had some business to discuss, credit and so forth, my father would go by horse and buggy and take me along with him to Kailua. It was a whole day affair taking the buggy from Kealakekua over to Kailua.

S: Very interesting. You were very close to your father then. You barely left his side.

M: Oh, yes.

S: How about when you started school. You must have had some schooling in Kona.

M: What happened was, my father did not send me to school at age six because I was lame. He kept me home for another year, so I didn't start going to school until I was seven, because the school was two and a half miles away and I had to walk. Later on he got a donkey for me.

S: You rode the donkey to school and tied the donkey up and went to class.

M: That's right. I had to take the saddle off while I was in school, tie the donkey on a tree. Where I kept the donkey was in the graveyard of the Buddhist Church.

S: The Church didn't mind.

M: They didn't mind. My father was an officer and a big shot in the Church.

S: Was this Japanese School or English School?

M: What happened in those days was English School was on the makai side of the road. The Buddhist Temple and the Japanese School, which was conducted by the Buddhist Temple, were across the road from the English School. So you went to Japanese School where class started at seven, and at nine the principal of the English School would ring the bell. When we heard the bell, we just jumped out of the Japanese School and ran across the street to the English School.

S: How many more hours did you spend in English School?

M: Nine o'clock to two o'clock, five hours. We had a short period for lunch and we used to bring our lunch, rice ball and other things such as dried codfish and opelu to eat with the rice.

These days parents I suppose would rebel against kids being used to clean the yard, but every Friday after lunch we had to spend about one hour cutting the grass. The school kept a supply of sickles to cut with.

S: This was in the English School?

M: Yes.

S: Did you have to do the same for Japanese School.

M: No.

S: They used to do that at Punahou, you know, up until about 1935 or 1940. You read old accounts of Punahou School and the boys on Saturdays had to do all the yard work.

M: And the interesting thing was that because this was a Japanese community, non-Japanese kids, some of them, went to Japanese School. One of them was Peter Whitmarsh who was clerk of First Circuit Court for a long time. So I asked him once, "Say, Peter, why the hell did you go to Japanese School?" He said, "If I didn't go, I didn't have any friends to play with." (laughter)

S: Also he couldn't understand. You people, Japanese kids, could talk about him behind his back.

M: He spoke good Japanese. (laughter)

S: Very good. Oh, I think in those days though a lot of non-Japanese people went to Japanese Language School. Did you have Chinese in your school, too?

M: No. And now, for instance, Judge Sam King went to Japanese School, Fort Street, for six years and he speaks excellent Japanese. That's the way it was.

S: I think it was good. Good to learn, but at home you must have spoken Japanese in the family.

M: Yes, and my father used to keep the store open until about nine at night. He then carried me downstairs to our sleeping quarters. About five in the morning he would get me up. Then there was no running water, just a tank, rain water stored in the tank, so I washed my face and brushed my teeth and then went before the Buddhist altar and chanted with my father. Then about five or five-thirty, I would carry a lamp and a pail and go to Greenwell Ranch with Father, because they started milking the cows about half past five.

S: So you would go with your pail and would they milk the cow right into your pail directly?

M: No, they'd milk it in a bigger container, but from that they would pour our milk into the can that I carried and then I went home.

S: Did they boil the milk?

M: My father boiled the milk and the scum came up. And then another thing was, in addition to having a store, my father had a drayage company with about fifty horses and mules to haul coffee down to the mill or freight up from the Napoopoo wharf.

S: He had those big wagons. He must have had a number of employees.

M: In the store side only one, but the drayage side about three.

S: Where did he keep his livestock, his mules?

M: Right next to the store on two acres. Then there was one employee, a Japanese employee, whose sole chore was to go every day and cut fodder for the horses and mules.

S: Where did he have to go to get that?

M: About a mile away there was a special land where they raised that. We leased that land. The fellow who took care of the growing and cutting of the fodder for the horses and mules was a bachelor, and he used to make good hot cakes, pancakes. Of course, no gas, no electricity, so you burned wood and after coming back from getting the milk, I would go to this bachelor's place and then cooked thick pancakes because I had fun flipping them over.

S: You would help him cook. He'd let you flip. He'd let you eat them, too, I hope. What did you put on the pancakes? Butter? Syrup?

M: Nothing. I just put enough sugar in the dough. Nice and sweet. I hardly ate at home. I just had my milk and then went there and flipped the hot cakes over. (laughs)

S: And then your father made your lunch which you took to school. And then dinner was back at home?

M: That's right.

S: Did you have a lot of school work to do at home or no homework in those days?

M: No homework in those days, so it was fun. I think I went to the first grade and then second grade. After a few months I jumped and went to the third grade.

S: You were then probably one of the youngest in your class.

M: I wasn't, because my father started me late. But I caught up. Then I went to Kona Waena School until the sixth grade. I finished sixth grade and then it was the First World War.

S: That would be about 1916.

M: Sixteen, seventeen, eighteen. And what happened there was, the principal taught three classes; sixth grade, seventh grade and eighth grade. The farmers' kids, most they went probably was until the end of sixth grade. Then they began helping their parents raise coffee, worked in the coffee fields.

S: And after that no further education?

M: No further education. So that as I recall, when I was in sixth grade, there were about sixteen in the sixth grade, six in the seventh grade, only two in the eighth grade and while the teacher was teaching the other grades, we would be knitting socks and sweaters for American solders overseas.

S: Then you had to learn to knit, too?

M: Yes, I was an expert.

S: Do you still knit sometimes?

M: No. (laughs) Then at the end of sixth grade, I told my father to send me to Honolulu to Mills School. That's the present Mid-Pacific Institute. And he said, "Okay, I will send you to Mills School," but then when I came out to Honolulu, a Japanese wholesaler who supplied Japanese goods to my father said, "Stay with us and go to Japanese School.

S: Where did he live?

M: Kalihi, way up Kalihi Uka. The Japanese School started at seven, so we would leave about five-thirty on a jitney bus, you see, and the bus would take one trip from Kalihi downtown to Kekaulike Street near the fishmarket. From there, I had to run to where the Buddhist Temple on Fort Street, now Pali Highway, was in order to get to the Japanese School on time.

S: That's a long way to go to school for a little boy.

M: Yes. And then when I came out to Honolulu, the nearest school was Royal School, but that place was filled up, always. The next one was Central Grammar which is the present Central Intermediate.

S: That's located down on...is that the one on Emma?

M: Yes, on Emma and Vineyard. That was supposed to be the best school. She (indicating Shigeko) went there.

S: Isn't that where May Fraser's mother taught? You know, the artist, May Fraser?

M: I do not know. Anyway, the principal's name was Miss Overend. I think Shigeko knew her, too.

S: Overwright?

SM: Overend. O-V-E-R-E-N-D.

M: Yes, so she asked me, "What grade are you applying for?" And country kid that I was, not speaking good English, I hesitated. I suppose I didn't answer her intelligibly because she said, "Well, my fourth graders speak better English than you." She chased me out. (laughs)

S: But you really wanted to go to Mills, didn't you?

M: I really didn't care. I just wanted to get out of Kona. So I went to Japanese School, then English School. Next choice was Normal School. Normal School was on Punchbowl near Alapai now. Right up around where the apartments are. The only English school that accepted me was grammar school department of Normal School.

S: Oh, Iolani Street.

M: Yes, a little this side of Iolani. In those days a college education was not needed to become a teacher. Everybody who wanted to be a teacher went to Normal School, so Normal School was just like high school from eighth grade. You got into Normal School for four years and the first year they just learned the fundamentals, but from the second year, sophomore year, the students started teaching, and the supervising teacher supervised their performances.

S: They were awfully young then to be teachers.

M: I went to Normal School as a real guinea pig. I went to seventh grade and eighth grade at Normal School. In those days the system was eight-four. Eight years in grammar school and four years in high school. Normal School was just like that, not six-three-three. So I finished the eighth grade, then I went to McKinley. And my English was so bad at McKinley the first semester I got C minus. I almost flunked out.

S: That's incredible. They didn't do you much good at Normal, did they?

M: No, they didn't. But I had good teachers.

S: What class were you at McKinley?

M: Nineteen twenty-four.

S: Twenty-four. You must have some of your classmates still here?

M: That's the famous class. Chinn Ho and Hiram Fong and Hung Wai Ching.

S: Hung Wai and then Hung Wo. Which is the one that lives next door here?

M: It is Hung Wai Ching, and I pulled up my English grade to B plus by the end of the year, and then I completed McKinley at the top of the class.

S: Very good. McKinley was considered one of the best high schools, wasn't it?

M: It was good. It was the only public high school on Oahu then. And we had excellent teachers. To show you the kind of teachers I had, my junior English teacher was from Omaha, Nebraska, and at the end of the year she said, "Masaji, I think you should go to college." At that time I never thought of going to college.

Then after teaching one year at McKinley, she went to the Philippines, but she left me a card saying, "My brother is in real estate in Omaha. If you ever get near Omaha, drop in and call on my brother." Well, I didn't go to Nebraska so I had no occasion to call on her brother, but after she finished teaching in the Philippines she went back to Nebraska. One of my classmates, who also married a classmate, went on a bus ride across the continent years later. They had corresponded with this teacher in Davenport, Iowa. So when those two went there, she was so happy that she put them up one whole week, entertained them. That's the kind of teachers we had.

S: How nice. Well, I know McKinley had a very good reputation. I still think it's a good high school for the public high schools. Well, you were then beginning to think of going to college when you were a junior or so.

M: I never thought of going to college. You see, in those days religious freedom wasn't emphasized too much, so at McKinley High School, even though it was a public school, we used to have baccalaureate at a Christian church. We had

baccalaureate at Central Union, and that was the first big ceremony they had at this new Central Union Church, not the small one, but the bigger one.

S: The big one on Beretania and Punahou.

M: And Reverend Palmer gave the baccalaureate sermon address, and his title was "Aim High," aim as high as possible. In that class Hiram Fong had not applied to college. I never thought of going to college, so I hadn't applied, and Chinn Ho had not applied to college and he never went to college. Hiram Fong had to work three years before he had money enough even to go to the University of Hawaii.

S: But Hiram went to University of Hawaii first?

M: I might as well finish Hiram's story. Hiram Fong, after working three years and then going to college, finished University of Hawaii in three years and decided to become a lawyer. He applied to Harvard. Then the answer of Harvard was, "We don't recognize University of Hawaii. We do not know University of Hawaii." (laughs) You see, in those days there was no admission test from the big universities. Harvard would accept any graduate. From the smaller ones you had to be in the top twenty-five percent. University of Hawaii wasn't included even in the smaller colleges.

So then Arthur Smith, if you know Arthur Smith, Smith, Wild, Beebe and Cades, Arthur Smith was a graduate of Harvard and then he also, I think, was chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. So he wrote to Harvard asking whether they somehow could accept Hiram. Then Harvard wrote back, "Being a respected alumnus of Harvard, with your recommendation we will accept him if he's in the top fifteen percent at the University of Hawaii." And he was in the top fifteen percent.

S: Very good.

M: That's how he went to Harvard and then also the other thing, he didn't even have money, steamship fare money. Chinn Ho was already working, so Chinn Ho provided him with the steamship money.

S: Chinn Ho was a businessman from the word "go," wasn't he? He knew how to make money.

M: Yes, so I think the first steamer fare that Hiram needed, Chinn Ho provided it. (laughs)

In my case what happened was that the night after my graduation from McKinley, as number one, the Buddhist Bishop, the Bishop of the Buddhist Church on Fort Street, now Pali Highway, and his wife invited me to Seaside Hotel which is on

the present site of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. That was the best hotel in Honolulu at that time. That was the first time in my life I ever ate at a table with a tablecloth on it.

S: I'm glad it happened before you went to Harvard.

M: And with fork and knife which were heavier than tinplate.

S: You probably ate with chopsticks.

Well, that's marvelous. That is your story up through your early education.

END OF TAPE 1/SIDE 1

July 2, 1985

M: You start off and then I will try to be as concise as possible and as direct as possible instead of rambling around.

S: You did not ramble the other day. You were very good, but where we did leave off was with the Bishop and his wife inviting you to dinner at the Seaside Hotel. I feel that maybe the next chapter will be how and where and when you went off to college.

M: All right. We'll start from where the Bishop invited me to dinner and then suggested or urged me to go to college and in the meantime to go back to Kona and wait to hear from him in about two weeks.

S: Did you hear from the Bishop after two weeks or did it take longer?

M: I think it was about two weeks and the scholarship society, I think there were twelve directors who did the choosing, and my recollection is that they were evenly divided, six Buddhists and six Christians.

S: Which scholarship society was this? Was it with the Buddhist Church or with the Honolulu...?

M: No, what had happened was the first generation Japanese leaders decided to have, I don't know how it came about, but I think I told you about the person who furnished the scholarship, did I or did I not?

S: No, you did not tell me the last time.

M: Okay, now I said that the Buddhist Bishop said, "I'll try and get this scholarhip for you," and in about two weeks I received a wire from Honolulu saying that I received the

scholarship, so I prepared to go to the mainland. I think I told you my father wanted me to go to a college any place where there would be somebody I knew. It so happened that the son of a plantation laborer who came from the same village as my father was a dentist in Chicago. So I decided to go to Chicago. When I applied to the University of Chicago, very frankly, I did not know its standing, that it was as good as I found it to be. I just applied blind as far as the standing of the university was concerned.

S: You applied because of this family connection.

M: Family connection and I knew this dentist. He had come for a vacation in Hawaii and I had met him, I think, at the end of my junior year. He was a very outgoing person. Shigeko knows how outgoing he was.

I went to Chicago with a younger sister of this dentist, only she was older than me. He had invited her to visit him in Chicago, and we went on the same ship. The dentist was living on the south side of Chicago in an apartment owned by a Caucasian woman and another younger Caucasian woman, and so he sent the older Caucasian woman to Los Angeles to get his younger sister. She took care of us. We all went to Chicago together.

S: That was nice because then you didn't have to worry about getting there yourself.

M: No, I didn't have to worry. So then I went to Chicago, and I got to Chicago late so that all the dormitories were filled. I had to go to a rooming house near the university, and I think the room rent was about ten dollars a month, maybe even less. Then my first Sunday in Chicago I was alone so I decided to take a streetcar to the Loop, the center of Chicago, and I still remember being all alone in Chicago. I probably never experienced a more lonesome feeling than on that Sunday when I just went to the center of Chicago alone. All the stores were closed, just nothing but buildings. (laughs)

S: Very, very lonely looking and nobody around. I bet you wished you were back in Kona.

M: Then a couple of problems came up and the trouble was... before I do that I better say what the scholarship was. It provided for transportation from Honolulu to the mainland and at that time I think transportation was about $110 to San Francisco. From San Francisco to Chicago I think was about $70 and my understanding was that I would be provided transportation. Then if I studied on the Pacific coast, it would be $500 a year. If I studied in the Midwest, it would be $600 a year. If I studied in the East, it would be $700

a year, and I selected Chicago, so my scholarship was $600 year.

What the representative of the donor did was, the person who provided the scholarship had a business office in New York, so the manager of the New York business office would send semiannual scholarships to the controller of the university. It wouldn't come directly to me, but the controller notified me that there is $300 from such and such a person, and I knew it was from the scholarship society.

S: Would that cover your living expenses, books and all of that?

M: Six hundred dollars probably, even in those days, would not have covered everything. I may say those who had gone to study in Chicago--my partner later, Bob Murakami was studying law at the University of Chicago--during the summer vacation, these Japanese boys from Hawaii would earn some money by working in a Japanese restaurant in downtown Chicago.

S: Oh, how interesting.

M: Yes, and during the school year very few worked. If they worked, they would be a waiter or dishwasher or something at the cafeteria of the university. Now in my case I did not work. The tuition was $180 a year for a one-year course. That would mean that Chicago, unlike the Eastern schools or other universities, was not run on a semester basis but was run on a quarterly basis and one academic year would be three quarters. They did not count the summer quarter.

S: Could you go to college during the summer if you wanted to speed up?

M: I'll come to that. Each quarter a student would take three subjects, so that one academic year meant nine subjects, and each subject was $20 a quarter, so that to take a full course it would be $60 a quarter, and for three quarters the tuition would be $180.

Then, because they had no experience, very little experience, with Oriental students, the first thing the university did was to give an English examination to see whether they had enough English to keep up with their studies. So I took the examination. I thought I did pretty well. The fact is, whoever marked my papers gave me a flunking mark, so that I was not allowed to take English until I prepared myself with a special English course which they gave to students from foreign countries.

S: Or even American students who don't do well because I know in my university we had what they called "bonehead English."

M: Oh, bonehead English. (laughs) Well, in any event, this examination was given only to non-Caucasians. With non-Caucasians the home language would not be English. And I couldn't understand why I was given a flunking mark, but in any event that was it. And there was a special class organized for that group.

After two weeks my English instructor asked me, "Why are you in this class?" I said, "I don't know. My mark in the examination said that I was unsatisfactory, so I was sent here." And she said, "You are wasting your time here. You don't belong here." But it was already too late to get into the regular English class because it was already about three weeks after the class started, so she said, "Well, you cannot get into the regular class because three or four weeks have already elapsed. I'm sorry, but I think if you stay here, you'll be wasting your time. So I don't know what to do but I see no advantage for you to continue in this class."

So I stepped out, and I continued with my other two courses. I think one was geography, and one was an orientation course which Chicago gave. I don't think any university gives that kind of orientation course. It was probably the best orientation course you could find.

S: Orientation to college or to work?

M: Orientation to what college education is all about and what kind of subjects they are teaching. The best thing about that orientation course was the lectures. Lessons were given by the biggest authorities on the particular subject. Nowadays you go to college, well, some assistant would lecture on that class and you would be very fortunate if you have a full professor. I don't think in the first year students have the...

S: No, today they don't.

M: Well, there for instance, you got the training say in art appreciation. The one who was in charge of that particular subject would take you to the Chicago Art Institute and then showed us French paintings by Corot, Manet; English paintings by Gainsborough and so forth. And they're such experts in that they knew how to explain it so that you got an appreciation of what it was all about.

Another course would be psychology. Again a full professor would give you the highlights, and I don't think any university at present would offer such a course because for a twelve-week period you had about at least half a

dozen, maybe eight, of the biggest authorities in that field lecturing to you.

Now you take sculpture. The greatest sculptor in Chicago would lecture about Rodin. For instance, two of his biggest works were "Spirit of the Great Lake," which is a very famous sculpture right on the site of the Chicago Art Institute. The other is only two blocks away at the end of Washington Park. There's a huge statue on which he worked. And the title of that sculpture was "Procession of Humanity." And he explained what he proposed to show by that sculpture. He had his studio only two blocks from the University of Chicago. He took us there and showed us how he worked on those things. Models, mold and the final product. He had his working materials and we had lots of fun because he had us move the face this way or that way. Then we had one of the foremost portrait painters taking us to the Art Institute to explain what to look at and that sort of thing.

S: A really good overview of what art was about.

M: That's right. Now, for instance, one was an astronomer, nationally famous astronomer and head of the Astronomy Department of University of Chicago and he was the originator of "A Theory of the Origin of Earth," which at that time was known as the "Planetesimal Theory of the Origin of the World." And he was so interesting. The best students in our class, we decided in some quarter we would take his course just to get more of it because he knew how to put it across.

What happened was some of us decided to take his full course in our senior year to get the full advantage of our being there. And it was a very select course, twenty in the class. Everyone had at least an average of B plus by then, and they were candidates for Phi Beta Kappa.

Well, at the begining of the class he just scared us off, he intimated that unless you were very good, you were going to get a flunking mark, but everyone was interested, was smart, so that at the end of the course he said, "I'll give to the class a sporting proposition." The students said, "What sporting proposition?" "All right, if you are game, game enough and want to take a chance..." The faculty club was a block away from the classroom. He said, "On such and such a day, Mr. Marumoto and I will play tennis. If I win, all of you will get a flunking mark. If Mr. Marumoto wins, then I will give each of you an A." We knew he was joking, but one morning we all went to the tennis court of the faculty club with the students backing me up and so forth. I actually won one set and he won one set.

S: Tie.

M: Tie, and he just laughed and he said, "Well, Mr. Marumoto didn't lose so I think all of you get an A." (laughs)

S: Do you remember that professor's name?

M: Moulton. M-O-U-L-T-O-N.

I'm jumping ahead but what happened was I completed my four-year course at University of Chicago in three years by taking extra subjects during the regular school year, and also by going to two summer sessions, so that after the first year, my first quarter when I took only two subjects because I flunked in the qualification examination in English, after that I took four subjects every quarter except the summer quarter. In summer quarter I thought, "I'll take it easy," so that I took the regular three subjects for the summer quarter, but even at that and even by being forced to take only two subjects during the first quarter at the end of the second summer, I had completed my junior year requirement.

S: Remarkable.

M: At the University of Chicago to be elected to Phi Beta Kappa required an A minus average for three years, B plus average for four years. Well, in my case I had completed the junior year course at the end of the second summer. At the end of the second summer I had completed a three-year course and I averaged better than A minus so that I was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at the end of my second summer there.

Then in my senior year the New York Times conducted a nationwide current events contest among, I think, twenty top universities, among the state universities California at Berkeley, Michigan and so forth. Others were Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Brown, Columbia. Anyway, there were twenty. What happened was, the first test would be given in each university to select the representative of that university in that nationwide contest, and in Chicago I won. I think by being the winner in Chicago I got $100, maybe $150. I forgot.

Then after each winner in a university was selected, an examination would be given to those winners, so there were twenty competing for the national prize and I was the University of Chicago representative. In the national contest the overall winner would get a gold medal and $750 cash, second would get a silver and $500 cash and the third would get a bronze and $250 cash. I happened to be the winner of the third prize so I got the cash prize plus the bronze medal, and I'll show you what it looks like.

S: Oh, good. Wonderful. (looking at the medal)

Were there many students from Hawaii at the University of Chicago while you were there?

M: No, at the University of Chicago the only one was Mr. Murakami who was studying law and who later became my partner. I first became acquainted with him in Honolulu when he was at the Territorial Normal School.

In those days you didn't have to have a college degree. You went from eighth grade straight to Normal School and Murakami was one of them. But after graduating fron Normal School, he decided that he would not go into education and so he went to Chicago to college and after taking the prelegal course, graduated from the University of Chicago.

S: He must have been about six or seven years older than you.

M: I think he was five years older than me, and he was very helpful. I might tell you an interesting thing. It doesn't concern me, but tells about the social situation then. We had no difficulty in those days, Japanese going into Canada. Japanese had no difficulty, but Chinese had an awful time.

For instance, Hiram Fong was in ROTC at University of Hawaii and on his first trip as an ROTC cadet to the mainland, I think, summer camp in Ohio, he had no trouble getting into San Francisco and in the United States. Then a couple of Japanese classmates from the University of Hawaii also were in the ROTC. They had the same problem as me as far as getting into San Francisco was concerned because they were Japanese and they had to have an Immigration Certificate even though they were ROTC students.

Then after training in Ohio, the Japanese students decided that they'd cross over into Canada and see Niagara Falls and Canada, too. Well, Canada didn't allow Chinese and Hiram Fong couldn't get into Canada although he had no problem getting into San Francisco. The Japanese boys had no problem getting into Canada, but Hiram was unable to get in. So after the training in Ohio, the Japanese boys said, "The hell with this. We're not going either." So they didn't go, neither Hiram nor the Japanese students.

S: It's funny how these things change with political times. Sometime in our life span, alternately, Chinese and Japanese have been accepted or not accepted.

To get back to my Chicago days, instead of coming back here for the summer, I never did come back for the summer, I wanted to get a summer job. Normally the summer job was working in Japanese restaurants in downtown Chicago. There

was a restaurant called Tokyo Number One and a restaurant called Tokyo Number Two and Japanese kids from Hawaii worked in those restaurants during the summer months.

Well, I asked the controller of the university, "Is there any summer job that I can get?" Then he said, "I think I have a job which is perfect for you. A group of artists, including sculptors, portrait painters and commercial artists and other scholars, have a summer camp in the town of Oregon, which was right next to Governor Lowden's farm." This was the town of Oregon [Illinois], and the camp was located a couple of miles away from the town. "If you're interested, I'll immediately notify Mr. Taft who is the head of the camp and whom you know because he's a famous sculptor and he lectured to you during orientation." I said, "Sure, I'd be interested." Then he said, "You'll have enough to live on and have an interesting time. You would be doing small chores. You'll enjoy it." I said, "I'll take a chance."

As I said, they were a bunch of artists including portrait painters and commercial artists. Another one was the Dean of the University of Chicago Medical School whose daughter was my classmate at Chicago. And the secretary from the University of Chicago was there. So they were scholars. Every summer they opened the camp and they had a colored cook. A very good cook. She had a son who was still a youngster, but he would do janitorial work with me. Even though I was an employee, I had my meals with the group and participated in very interesting conversations because it was an interesting crowd.

I had a wonderful time. My job was to help the colored boy do the janitorial work. When that was finished, I would go down with Emily Taft to downtown Oregon to do the shopping. Her work was to do the shopping for the camp.

S: Emily Taft was a daughter of Lorado Taft?

M: Yes, they had two daughters. The other daughter was married and I don't recall right now what her husband's job was but he had a good job. They spent all the time every summer at the camp, which was called "Eagle's Nest Camp." After we did the shopping, I didn't have anything to do. There were a couple of tennis courts in the camp, so I would enjoy tennis with the men and also with Emily Taft and a few of the ladies.

Then I could go swimming and walk with her, go visiting to nearby places. One thing I didn't do at that time was golf, so I didn't golf or go fishing at the camp. Some of them went out golfing. They had a golf course nearby. At the end of the summer I left the camp before it closed (just a week or two) and they gave me a surprise farewell party.

As a memento of my summer there they gave me the famous book of that time, The Rise of American Civilization by [Charles] Beard, a Columbia professor. This was 1927. Everyone signed it. "Presented to Masaji Marumoto by his friends at Eagle's Nest Camp with gratitude for his services and admiration for his character. September 5, 1927." (Followed by eighteen signatures.) Lorado Taft, his wife Ada. She was the daughter of Hamlin Garland, author of A Son of the Middle Border and A Daughter of the Middle Border. Ralph Clarkson was a portrait painter. Dwight Dickenson was secretary of the University of Chicago. Horace Spencer Fiske was secretary of the University of Chicago. Two were commercial artists. Ada Fiske was the wife of an English professor.

S: Were those all the people who were at the camp or were there more?

M: Those were the ones who stayed all summer.

S: About twenty people.

M: (Displays photo) This was taken. That's how I became very close with Emily Taft because she was the second daughter of Lorado Taft. She later married Paul Douglas (the U. S. Senator), who was a professor of economics at the University of Chicago and who became famous during World War II because as a scholar he volunteered as a buck private. He was over age, but like me he volunteered as a buck private and then he rose to the rank of major during the war.

I had a grand time. My job would be finished around ten o'clock. Shopping and so forth. Then we would go to the tennis court.

S: That was a perfect kind of summer job. Just a little bit of work and plenty of play. You must have had some interesting discussions with that group. Were they liberals or were they conservatives?

M: They were pretty liberal. Chicago was known as a liberal university.

S: That's why I asked the question. You were quite a conservative, I should imagine. How did that affect you?

M: (laughs) I suppose I hadn't decided yet whether I would be conservative or liberal. But I was invited to take all three meals at the same table with those scholars.

S: That was a priceless privilege because you couldn't have paid to be with them and learn their philosophies. That sounds like a wonderful summer. It was a very intellectual and outstanding group that you were with and from then on

those were the only kind of people you've been with, intellectuals and outstanding people.

M: One more thing about the New York Times contest. The one who got the gold medal, number one in the contest, was a summa cum laude at Harvard University and he was in the same class with me at Harvard Law School. Then the fellow who got number two was a student at Brown. He also ended up at Harvard Law School. All three of us became close friends.

S: A brain trust. (laughs) Are either of these two gentlemen still alive?

M: One is alive and we still keep up with each other.

S: Where is he now?

M: He's retired in Arizona. He was probably the foremost authority on military law, so during the war he was a colonel and he was head of the legal group of the American forces that invaded Okinawa. He found out that I was at the Judge Advocate General's Officer training course, so he put in a request that I be sent over to Okinawa. I didn't know that it was his requisition.

S: It was he because I have read that story. You know, in the East-West magazine story that they did on you.

M: Yes, then I arrived there the afternoon of the twenty-second, I think, and nobody knew about me, so they didn't know what to do.

S: This was at Harvard.

M: No, in Okinawa. And then finally they found out he was the head of the legal department with the American military forces in Okinawa, but he had some arm ailment so he was in the hospital. His arm was in a sling and he said, "Masaji, this is my passport home." He was on his way back to the U. S.

He was hospitalized in Honolulu at Army Hospital Number Three. I think the St. Louis College Building was Number Three here. Kuakini Hospital was Army Hospital Number Two and Number One was ...

S: Tripler?

M: No, Kalakaua, Kalakaua Junior. What°s the high school now in Kalihi? Farrington. It was Kalakaua Intermediate School then and that was used as Army Hospital Number One. So anyway, he came back and he was stationed at St. Louis Hospital Number Three and he called Shigeko and met Shigeko.

S: And he's now in Arizona. Is he still practicing law?

M: No, he's retired. And his name is Frederick Wiener. We call him Fritz. Anyway, he's the nephew of the famous Viennese psychologist. I forget the name.

S: Karl Jung? Sigmund Freud?

M: Freud. Freud's wife was Fritz Wiener's aunt. Anyway, I got to know these very interesting characters. (laughs)

S: Well, college, I think, is a place if you are lucky and do it right, you meet people that are your friends for the rest of your life and that you intertwine with in your professions and so forth.

M: And these fellows all had family backgrounds, not poor immigrants' kids like me.

S: Well, that didn't hold you back and I think you probably contributed a great deal to them because they wouldn't have had a good relationship with you otherwise.

END OF TAPE 2/SIDE 1

July 25, 1985

M: You see, at the end of the second year by taking extra courses I had finished my third-year course, junior year course, and from the beginning of the third academic year I would have taken my senior year subjects. At the end of the third-year course, which would be the end of the second full year at Chicago, I was majoring in philosophy.

I was majoring in philosophy because I had a dean who was my dean from the very first quarter in Chicago, and he was a wonderful professor. He originally came from Texas and he had lots of humor and so I got interested in philosophy. I never knew what philosophy was when I entered the University of Chicago. Then he was so interesting that I began taking more philosophy subjects than other subjects like political science or political economy. So when I wrote to my father that I had finished the third-year course and I was getting into my fourth year, he asked me what I was studying. I said, "Philosophy." I don't think he understood what philosophy was, a fellow who never had any formal education.

S: He probably didn't know the word.

M: Yes, but I wrote in Japanese, of course, what philosophy was, but then he said he knew it wasn't a practical subject so, "Why don't you take something practical?" So I could have majored in political science or political economy, and I

decided to major in political economy because I had taken a couple of courses from a Professor Vinar who later became one of the leading political economy professors. He shifted from Chicago to Princeton and he became head of the political economy department of Princeton.

And then I took philosophy as my minor and at the end of my senior year I got my degree, a Bachelor of Philosophy Degree with a major in Political Economy. Then the University of Chicago gave me a fellowship in political economy. I decided that there was no future at that time for persons of Oriental ancestry who majored in political economy.

I had never been in a lawyer's office; I had never been in a courthouse either in Hawaii or in Chicago, but I decided to take up law and I could have gone to University of Chicago Law School that very year. Chicago and Columbia and Cornell, those universities required only three years of prelegal work in college. You didn't have to have a degree. I think Harvard was the only one which required a college degree to enter law school, so I finished my university course, college course, in political economy as a major and applied to Harvard Law School.

S: Was that a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree that you got at Chicago?

M: At Chicago the degree was Bachelor of Philosophy. There was a Bachelor of Science, but what in other universities would have been Bachelor of Arts was Bachelor of Philosophy.

S: That's interesting.

M: Then I applied to Harvard and I think I stated to you, in those days as far as graduates of twenty or thirty so-called prestigious universities were concerned, graduation from university was sufficient to get you into Harvard. You didn't have to take a law school admission test or any test, except that if you were a graduate of a university or a college which was not within the twenty or thirty prestigious universities, you had to be in the upper twenty-five percent of the graduating class. Now for instance, academically, Oberlin probably was one of the best colleges, but then it wasn't included in one of those colleges or universities, so there you had to be in the upper twenty-five percent.

S: Of course University of Chicago was on that list. So, therefore, you applied to Harvard and they accepted you immediately.

M: University of Chicago was one of the colleges. No problem in getting into Harvard.

Harvard took in about 800 students in the law school. They were mostly divided into two sections. Then in the classroom the students were assigned seats with numbers on. Usually the professors would call on the student according to the order in which you were seated, so you knew when you were going to be called upon to recite and the students would be prepared. In my case I was the first non-Caucasian and nonblack student. I don't think there was a quota for blacks, but there were only two or three in the class. Then the professors would call the students for recitation according to the seats. They would not jump around. But in my case for the first year not a single professor called on me. They always skipped me. I never recited a single time.

S: Why did he skip you?

M: I suppose he didn't want to embarrass me.

S: Because you didn't speak English or something? (laughs) I think that's very funny.

M: That's right. I wasn't the type after the class to go to the professor and say, "I can recite." I just kept quiet. That's how it was.

S: But in your law training at Harvard, didn't you have to learn to speak in court and things like that?

M: Harvard had so-called law clubs. Small clubs. There would be a competition among the clubs. In the second year after the finals the two best teams were selected. They would argue before a Supreme Court judge who would come to be the judge of that moot court. In the first year there are historical, prestigious clubs that everybody wants to get into. Those who did not have the pull had to organize their own clubs. In my case I had no pull so I got into a newly-organized club.

In the second year there would be competition among clubs. The first year was like a trial run. Practice. In the second year what happened was those in my club (I think each club had eight members) there were three who remained, not being washed out at the end of the first year. What usually happened was that at least thirty-three percent would be washed out. The membership in these clubs would be depleted and those who remained would be invited into the other clubs. This should not be said in this day and age, but when the prestigious clubs had vacancies, those clubs would not take Jewish students. Anti-Semitic.

S: I didn't realize Harvard had an anti-Semitic...

M: Cornell had a ten percent Jewish quota. There were lots of Jews at Harvard. The historical clubs avoided the Jews and the Jews had their own clubs. At the end of the first year when a vacancy occurred in the Jewish clubs, the Jewish students who didn't get washed out were invited in. The problem was each club consisted of only eight persons. Very limited. In my club out of eight, four weren't washed out.

In my case there was a club named Choate Club, which had a long history, and there was a vacancy and I was invited. At the end of the finals there would be a competition and the Supreme Court judge presided. Choate Club won the semifinals, but not the finals. But in the semifinals, judges from New York and Boston would come. As far as that was concerned, I experienced no discrimination. Then I participated in drafting and writing briefs.

S: Were you the only Japanese at that time in the Harvard Law School?

M: The only Japanese; the only Oriental. There were other Orientals and some graduate students from the Orient, but I was the only one in law school. There was one Oriental student that I got acquainted with and we got to be very close friends. A Filipino whose name was Tanada. He was a graduate student. He is now a minister in Cory Aquino's cabinet. I used to go around with him quite a bit and I used to go around with Caucasian students. Maybe I was treated as a curiosity, but I had a fine time.

In the second year the remaining students were in small classes. I suppose the professors figured that anyone who survived the washout ought to be able to recite, so they started calling on me. That's how it was.

S: It sounds like a perfect kind of experience.

M: It was, and the students were very fair because I think there were only two openings in the Choate Club and they chose me even though I was an Oriental.

S: I think they didn't think of you maybe as an Oriental. They thought of you as a person and a very capable and smart young man.

Then at Harvard did you specialize in any particular type of law?

M: No. When I entered there, the course in which I had the most difficulty was civil procedure. The professor wasn't too good in explaining the subject he taught, plus the fact that that was something that was, shall I say, esoteric or

something that particularly applied to law, civil procedure, court procedure and so forth. I had never stepped into a law office and I had never stepped into a court, so I didn't know a thing about procedure, and I think the difficulty was the professor who taught the subject assumed that I had some background in law.

S: Yes, that you might have been in court or you might have read about it or something or been at least more exposed to law then you were.

M: I had never been exposed to law and then during my first year at Harvard for the first time I went to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, which is equivalent to the Supreme Court in the other states, because John W. Davis, who at that time was supposed to be the best lawyer in New York, was going to argue a case. That's the first time I ever stepped into a courthouse, just because of curiosity about how Davis would be arguing the case.

S: Well, were you impressed? Did you like it?

M: I suppose I did, I think. And he wasn't long-winded. He just argued the point and I don't think he took all the time he was allowed. It was a very brief argument.

S: Isn't that usually good though, to be brief if you could make your point?

M: I think he did and I figured that he did.

S: So then how long were you at Harvard?

M: Three years, and at the end of the first academic year, instead of coming home for the summer, I went down to New York and took a summer course at Columbia University Law School. I registered for it, but I think I wasted my time because there was too much temptation to fool around at night. I stayed at International House.

At that time, of course, there was an area between the women's side and the men's side. The dormitory was, I think, $10 a week or something like that. It was fairly reasonable.

And then I went to Columbia, but I didn't finish the summer course. I got to be pretty friendly with a few of the students from Japan who were from rich families, and they just tempted me to go out in the evening and after about half the summer session was over, I quit.

S: You just dropped out.

M: I dropped out. I think my choice at that time was I could have gone to Europe or I could have gone to summer session. At least for a person who had gone to college on a scholarship from a Japanese businessman it looked better to be studying in the summer in New York instead of fooling around in Europe. So I didn't go, but I'm sorry I didn't, because I spent more money in New York than going to Europe and coming back.

S: Well, that was a good experience for you though. You afterwards probably felt a little guilty that you had frittered away the summer.

M: If I had gone to Europe, I could have experienced Europe. I think I could have bought a new suit and come back.

S: Did you get a new suit in New York?

M: No. (laughs)

S: No? (laughs) Well, that's part of life, part of learning. And the next summer after that, did you work or go travelling?

M: The next summer I came back for the first time in four years, so I spent my summer in Hawaii.

S: You must have been happy to be home. You were up in Kona with your father?

M: Yes, I took a tourist train instead of the regular pullman and then I came back steerage on Dollar Line. It cost only $60.

S: Sixty dollars!

M: From Los Angeles to Honolulu. I think the train from the East was about probably $80, pullman $80 or $90 those days from Boston to Los Angeles, and tourist accommodation was probably around $60. I know the Dollar Line Steamship steerage accommodation was $60 Los Angeles to Honolulu.

S: Did it take a week?

M: I think it was a week. Might have been six days.

S: About what year was that?

M: That was 1929.

S: Oh, the year of the stock market crash. Then you spent the summer and went back?

M: Then went back to finish my third year in the law school.

S: And then at the end when you got your law degree, did you come home right away?

M: I came back right away.

S: What did you do then?

M: Well, I waited for the bar examination which took place in October.

S: Here in Honolulu?

M: Well, in Kona. My father still had the store in Kona, so I stayed in Kona and then came out probably a week or so before the examination took place. As far as the examination was concerned, Eddie Sylva, I don't know whether you know him or not, one of the Mendonca boys, Eddie Sylva was one year ahead of me at Harvard, so he had taken the 1929 bar examination and he gave me some pointers. He said, "There's one question they will always give you and that will be a question about Hawaiian land title, Hawaiian land law. So brush up on that darn thing. The other questions are all questions on the subjects studied at law school." And he was right. There was one question on Hawaiian land terms: ahupuaa, ili and so forth.

S: All Hawaiian terms used in real estate?

M: That's right.

S: No doubt you passed with the first taking?

M: First taking. Up to that time Murakami, who later became my partner, passed the bar examination in 1925, and in between 1925 and the time I took the examination two or three Orientals took the examination, and I think one or two Chinese passed the bar examination, but not a single Japanese passed the bar examination in those five years.

S: Then you were about the second person of Japanese ancestry to pass the Hawaii bar?

M: Actually, I was the fifth. Very few persons in Hawaii know this, but the first two Japanese who got the license to practice law in Hawaii never took the examination. We are celebrating the centennial of the Japanese immigrant. Not a word is mentioned in the paper about the first one who got the license in the history of Japanese. Here it's written that he was so smart that he passed number one, but the Supreme Court record shows that he was given the license because he was a graduate of Tokyo University. He never took an examination and this was in 1889.

Then the second Japanese who got the license in 1911 was a son of a Japanese immigrant who came here in 1868, and he was born in 1877 and after working for sometime he decided to study law. He went to the University of Michigan, graduated in 1911 and then he was also given a license without taking an examination. Now the very first one the Court record says because he was a graduate of Tokyo University. The second one who got his license in 1911, the court record shows he was granted the license on certificate; on certificate means certificate of graduation from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

S: Well, where else would anybody have gotten their training, because in those days there was no law school in Hawaii.

M: No law school, but still this second Japanese worked for HSPA for many years. I don't think he ever went to college. He went directly to the law school.

S: Then he worked for the HSPA as a legal advisor?

M: No, more or less as an interpreter. What happened was his parents were domestic servants of an associate justice of Hawaii Supreme Court. I think the justice's name was Prescott. It's very interesting, because when he (the Japanese fellow) died in 1917, he died young. He had a sister who at eleven years of age the history book says spoke English as well as any Caucasian. And at eleven years of age she acted as an interpreter in the negotiations between Hawaii and Japan for the coming of the first group of contract immigrants, the centennial of which we are celebrating this year.

S: What is this family's name?

M: Ozawa. There were three children, two boys and the girl. The oldest one became the first policeman of Japanese ancestry. He was a policeman in Hilo, Hawaii. And the second one was this girl. The Hawaiian representative who negotiated the coming of the Japanese contract laborers was so impressed by this girl that he took her back to Japan and gave her Japanese education. She studied in a Japanese girls

school and came back and then married the manager of the Honolulu branch of the Yokohama Specie Bank.

Later, her husband was transferred to New York as manager of the New York branch of Yokohama Specie Bank. That happened during the Russo-Japanese war, and one of the brokerage houses in New York sold war bonds, and this manager of Yokohama Specie Bank, from right here in Honolulu to New York, got a decoration from the Japanese ambassador for his services in selling Japanese bonds. The common knowledge was that he was able to sell the Japanese bonds because of the social grace and linguistic ability of his wife.

S: How interesting. These people are no longer living, are they?

M: They are no longer living.

S: Oh my, how interesting. Now let's see. Where were we back there? You were the fifth person of Japanese ancestry here in Hawaii to pass the bar exam.

M: The third to be licensed after taking an examination.

S: And then it was after this that you went to work for Mr. Frank Thompson?

M: After I passed the bar, I made the rounds of some of the law offices and had no chance at any of the offices here, Caucasian law offices. For instance, you take the present office of, it used to be Anderson, Wrenn and Jenks.

S: Goodsill, Anderson and Quinn.

M: That is right. For instance, Mr. Anderson was a graduate of Harvard. I went there and Mr. Wrenn who interviewed me introduced me to Mr. Anderson. He asked me what my grades were and I said, "Such and such," because my third year grades were good enough to put me on the cum laude list.

S: And you graduated cum laude from Harvard?

M: I did not, because my first year grades were lousy. I didn't know what the professors were talking about. I caught on from the second year. Third was good enough for cum laude, but the average wasn't. I told Mr. Anderson what my grades were and he said, "Oh, excellent grades," and that was the end of that.

S: So then you kept looking and found nothing?

M: Yes, and then I finally got a job with Mr. Thompson, and again this is an interesting thing. Thompson had a

Japanese office manager who had no formal education. He was a son of a sugar plantation worker. His family later moved to Kona and he grew up in Kona. He was self-educated but he had lots of common sense, was a good bookkeeper and Mr. Thompson trusted him. So because my family knew him, being neighbors in Kona, I went to see this fellow whose name was Noguchi, and he introduced me to Mr. Thompson and Mr. Thompson said, "Come over, we can take care of you."

S: That was your foot in the door. How long were you with Mr. Thompson?

M: I was with Mr. Thompson for a year and a half.

S: Did you do mostly research for him or did you write briefs? What was your work with Thompson?

M: I wrote a brief in one criminal case and then I did office work drafting contracts and so forth.

S: What was Thompson's specialty or was it just general practice?

M: General law practice. And before the First World War he was counsel for HSPA and also for Hackfeld. Of course, Hackfeld was taken over by the alien property custodian and became American Factors.

S: Why was Hackfeld taken over by the alien property?

M: Because it was a German company.

S: Oh, of course.

M: And American Factors was organized, and he lost that business. After that, Mr. Thompson was more or less an independent attorney, but attorney for Matson Navigation Company because his wife was a sister of the president of the Matson Navigation Company.

S: Oh, she was a Roth?

M: Yes.

S: That's interesting. So then after a year and a half, did you form your partnership?

M: I opened my own office in August 1932. Then I formed my partnership with Murakami, I think, around 1937.

S: How did you get your clients?

M: I just waited in the office. It was hit or miss.

S: You just sat and waited until somebody knocked? You had your name on the door.

M: That's about it.

S: Word of mouth?

M: Word of mouth and then, you see, Thompson was attorney for the Yokohama Specie Bank. That was the biggest Japanese bank in Hawaii at the time. I did not get the Yokohama Specie Bank business, but the manager of the bank used to refer clients to me.

S: That was nice.

M: Yes, and my office was on the second floor of the Yokohama Specie Bank, and Mr. Thompson sent me some clients to help me out.

S: I'm just curious because if you have an office of your own, you do need a number of clients to make it. Once you get rolling, you lawyers do very well.

M: The funny thing was, my first bunch of Japanese clients were businessmen who never did any business with my father in Kona. It was after I began building up my reputation that they (my father's business associates) came over and became my clients. But at first, the clients were persons who had never done any business with my father. And they were businessmen whom my father didn't think much of, but they became my best clients.

S: Your best clients. Well, were all your clients of Japanese ancestry or did you have other nationalities coming to you?

M: Mostly Japanese, but one thing was this. In 1933, I think, prohibition was repealed after Roosevelt became president and luckily, I don't know how I got to do it, but I had some knowledge of the procedure to get a license from Washington to import foreign liquor.

I forgot how I happened to get into that field. So that after prohibition was repealed, the importers had to get permits from Washington, not only get license from the city and county, but also import permit from Washington, and I was the only one who had the forms and knew how to do it.

S: The only one in Honolulu? You must have had a roaring business.

M: Well, that's how I built it up, although I had a Harvard classmate in Washington who did the Washington part of the work. There were only two wholesalers whose business I did not get. One was American Factors and the other was Von Hamm Young. They hired Washington attorneys.

Then luckily because I knew the law about licensing of liquor dealers and so forth, the wholesalers in Honolulu, there were about ten of them and importers, formed a Wholesale Liquor Dealers' Association and I was hired as the attorney for and executive secretary of the Wholesale Liquor Dealers' Assocation. So even though Amfac and Von Hamm Young were not my clients, still they were members of the Association, so in that respect, indirectly, I got their business.

S: Well, you did very well.

M: Well, I tell you...Shigeko, Shigeko, come here. See what happened was after I married her, she became my secretary.

S: She worked in your office?

M: She worked in my office and...

S: For free or did he pay you?

SM: I don't think he paid me, did you? (laughter) And I had to make his lunch, too.

M: In any event, in those days we did not have xerox or anything.

S: You had carbon paper.

M: We had carbon paper. So you just could not make fast duplicates. These importers would come to my office and it was a slow process, so I took the business first come, first served. Then a couple of the biggest Japanese importers were hounding me, and I said, "You sit down here. The others are sitting down." And Shigeko was typing away. (laughs) I think we went home about five o'clock in the morning.

SM: I typed all night long.

S: Big demand for liquor. Well, there always is and I guess after prohibition people were eager.

M: Right after the repeal, it's a good thing that Pan Am began flying. Without Pan Am being there, we could not have got the license to get the New Year sake.

S: So then you got the New Year sake quickly.

SM: Then you retired me after that, didn't you?

M: Yeah.

S: Where did you meet Shigeko? How did you to happen to get married?

M: We'll let her tell the story.

END OF TAPE 2/SIDE 2

August 7, 1985

S: Judge, how did you meet Shigeko?

M: I opened my office on the second floor of the bank. Japanese bank where she was working.

S: Yokohama Specie Bank.

M: Yokohama Specie Bank which was at the mauka ewa corner of Bethel Street and Merchant Street just across from the then newly-constructed Honolulu Police Station. I don't know what the city is using the property for now, but the police station had just been constructed.

Actually, I had a couple of other friends. One, Shigeko is entertaining this coming Sunday, is here.

S: Lady friends or gentlemen friends?

M: Lady friends and then I had another friend before I began associating with her. Actuallly, she's number three. (laughter)

SM: Confession.

S: Never mind. You have the certificate and you're the winner, too.

M: One problem with the second one was she was a Christian. Now my father was a devout Buddhist and also, very frankly, I don't think we did hit it off right. In any event, as far as Shigeko is concerned, she graduated from Japanese School, same school which I attended, and she was the favorite of the wife of the Bishop of the Buddhist Temple which operated the Japanese Language School. The Bishop's wife kidded me

saying, "How about checking out Shigeko?" And then I was a favorite of the Bishop. He's the one who got me the scholarship. Then the religion was the same and it finally turned out we got together, although before we were engaged, the Bishop suddenly died.

S: Oh, that's too bad. About this time were you thinking of marriage? Did you want to get married?

M: I suppose in those days. Although being brought up in a Japanese family, I don't think I had a way with the girls.

S: Maybe you should just say that you were not very experienced in taking girls out. (laughter)

M: Then in the meantime the first girl got married; the second one, there was this religious difference plus other differences. The assistant manager of Yokohama Specie Bank, Shigeko was the favorite of the assistant manager, and he raved about her and, of course, I was seeing her at the bank counter anyway where she was working as a teller.

S: You always managed to get at her window?

M: Well, I don't know. (laughs)

SM: I don't know. He must have seen me from the other end of the bank. He never came around.

M: I think in the window, most of the tellers were men. I don't know what she was doing.

S: But you spotted her?

M: I spotted her, and actually it was a Japanese style marriage.

S: Then your father talked to her father.

M: My father checked her family history in Japan, and I suppose Shigeko's father also checked out ours. We came from the same prefecture. Then the other thing they checked was the family lineage. I suppose it turned out all right as far as my father was concerned. I don't know how it turned out with her parents.

S: Were you aware that your father was checking lineage?

SM: Oh yes, it took about a month, you know.

S: To write over there?

SM: To write and have the relatives look into the government record or the village record.

S: They wanted to see that there's no out-and-out criminals and maybe by some way you weren't already related?

SM: Well, we don't talk about that anymore now, but it had to do with the class system.

S: The caste system.

M: They weren't talking too much about that by the time we got married. In the old days, maybe. Actually, the class difference in Japan was legally abolished in 1871.

S: In India they still talk about it and they're very conscious of the caste system.

M: We were a plain farmer family. And only those of samurai lineage had family names. Others only had given names.

SM: We came from a samurai family. So according to his sister, when the record came from Japan, they were quite surprised and pleased that we came from a samurai family.

M: Then in those days, you had to have a formal go-between [nakaodo] who would go and talk to the prospective bride's family.

S: But this is after they checked it out?

SM: After both sides okayed it.

M: But in our case, the manager of the Yokohama Specie Bank who was supposed to be the formal go-between was recalled to Japan, transferred to Japan, and then the one who really was instrumental in getting us together, the Bishop of the Hongwanji Temple here, suddenly died in December.

S: That was the Bishop who got the scholarship for you. And you were his favorite.

M: And Shigeko was the favorite of the Bishop's wife and she was living, but the go-between had to be a man.

S: That's right.

M: So the actual go-between was one of the two assistant managers of Yokohama Specie Bank, and then he also was transferred before we got married, so the other assistant manager... We first formally met, Shigeko and I and her parents and my father, in the first assistant manager's home, but when he also got transferred to Japan, the other

assistant manager became, according to Japanese custom, the formal go-between.

S: And then once your father said yes to the go-between, did you have an official engagement party or something?

SM: Yes, that was at the assistant manager's home.

M: Actually, the formal engagement was announced after the other remaining assistant manager went to her parents' home and requested that the parents give their consent for our marriage. Now he was married to a woman, who, as far as social position in Japan was concerned, was way up because her father was president of the biggest fire and marine insurance company in Japan. He later became the minister of education. He's the one who established a very well-known and prestigious school in Kobe. Then we got married.

S: In the regular Japanese ceremony?

SM: Not Shinto, but we were married at Hongwanji.

S: And did you have a party afterwards, teahouse party?

M: Well, I tell you what happened. I just didn't like teahouse parties, and if I had my way, we wouldn't have had a big party, but I guess you owe the people who wanted to have the party.

S: Your family, Shigeko, must have wanted a nice party for you?

M: But I didn't like teahouse parties. Actually, one teahouse was run by Shigeko's parents' relative.

SM: Oh, Kagesa [Kumataro Kagesa], that's right.

M: But I didn't care for a teahouse party or any party actually, but we compromised by having our party at the new Halekulani Hotel. There had never been a Japanese wedding party at any Waikiki hotel. Of course, in those days Royal Hawaiian was there, but it was way up in the stratosphere.

S: Royal Hawaiian Hotel was somewhere just a little south of heaven or something in those days. It was very high.

M: And in our days we used to go to Halekulani and so we knew the headwaiter and I slightly knew the Kimballs. [Clifford and Juliet] I can't say I knew them well. So we discussed with the headwaiter about the availability of the main dining room for a wedding party. And this was in 1933. The depth of the Depression actually.

And what Halekulani did, I suppose after talking to us the headwaiter talked to Mrs. Kimball or whoever made the decision, and he telephoned me and you cannot believe it, but we had the use of the entire dining room. Halekulani sent their hotel guests to the House Without a Key there.

S: Well, that's what they would do today.

M: And we had fruit cocktail, of course, meat course which was roast chicken and ...

S: Did you order fish?

SM: Yes, fish course, too, at that time and then we had fruit. Did we have soup?

M: No, fruit cocktail and meat course and that's the first time a big Japanese party was held there, so those whom we invited, I think practically all came. You know, with all that with the waiters' tips included was a dollar eighty-five per head.

S: You did very well not only with your bride, but with your wedding dinner. Was this your party or her family's party?

SM: Half and half. We divided.

S: How many people came?

M: I think it was a 185.

S: My goodness, large.

SM: Well, it was large then, filled the whole dining room, you know. More than that. Was it more than that?

M: I think it was 185. I don't think that place could hold much more.

S: It held about 200, that old dining room with the lava pillars.

M: I remember the total bill we paid was four hundred sixty-six bucks. That's tip included and then they had a suite upstairs that was included, too.

SM: Oh my, honeymoon suite was even provided for.

M: And then the Halekulani guests were curious. All of them were just standing outside.

SM: Peering through the glass window.

S: I imagine you were in kimono. And many of your guests were in kimono.

SM: Yes, I guess so.

M: You see, the bride would get into the formal kimono, then changed once in what was called a visitor's kimono.

SM: The formal one was the black one with the design. Next one was blue, deep blue, copen blue with an overall design. Then we changed into the visitor's short-sleeved one, but the first two were long sleeved. And usually the unmarried girls, only the maidens are supposed to wear the long-sleeve kimonos. And then once you're married, you wear the shorter sleeve one.

S: Did you have the head dress?

M: She didn't want to and I didn't want her to.

S: Neither of you wanted it.

SM: I guess not. I wasn't interested in that at all. You just couldn't act natural, you know, you have to be so sophisticated.

S: You're a modern couple.

SM: In a sense.

M: And after the wedding in Honolulu, we went to Kona, and my father had a wedding party at one of the hotels for the Kona people.

S: At what hotel?

M: Manago.

S: Oh, the Manago. I know. I had dinner there a couple of years ago.

SM: Oh, is that so? It's enlarged now.

S: It's nice. Simple, but clean and the food is good. So you had a wedding party again at the Manago.

M: It was to introduce Shigeko to the Kona people.

SM: Did you know how much that cost your father? You don't remember?

M: Not off the top of my head.

To talk about the Depression. Before we got married, about the first formal or semiformal dinner I took Shigeko to was the annual dinner of the Hawaiian-Japanese Civic Association. And that year the Civic Association had the annual dinner in the, what's that? Regent Room in the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, the small room on the side.

The small parties are held there and so again, you know, the dinner, full course dinner. I don't think there was a fish course. At least we had fruit cocktail and then meat course.

SM: I think in those days we always had a fish course. I'm quite sure we always did.

M: It was a dollar a head at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

S: Well, in those days the dollar bought a lot.

M: Then we started our married life in a small rented cottage in Pauoa.

SM: Where Booth Road is.

M: It was a two-bedroom house with separate dining room and living room.

S: Sounds bigger than a cottage.

SM: It was nice quarters for us.

M: It was $22 a month. (laughter)

S: Well, that was good. I don't think you were earning in the five figures then, either.

M: No, not in those days. Then after we got married, you began working for me.

SM: Not right away was it, or was it? I forgot.

M: Well, we got married on September 23 and I know that was the year prohibition went out.

S: Yes, you told us about that in great detail and that was when you mentioned that Shigeko came to work and you (indicating Shigeko) said, "Yes, and I had to make his lunch, too."

SM: Brown bag. (laughing)

S: Did you also do your housework and then work all day there? And go home and cook?

SM: Yes, that's right.

S: You said there was a deadline because of the New Year's coming and everybody wanted the sake.

M: We got the permits so that the Japanese could import Japanese beer and sake for the New Year.

SM: Oh, were they happy with the Kirin beer that came in!

S: I can imagine.

M: And up to then I was starving. Actually, I think the gross income the first month was $46.

S: How did you feel you could afford to marry this beautiful girl?

M: By the time we married I had built up some clientele. Must have been around a hundred. Not too much over a hundred.

S: Well, in those days with a hundred, a young couple could live. A hundred a month and if you paid twenty-two for rent. they say one week's income for rent, so if you had about a hundred, twenty-two would be about right.

SM: That's why you called me to work for you. You could not afford a secretary.

M: That's the way we started. And we were able to get a cottage in Pauoa for $22 a month because it was owned by a Japanese who used to do interpreting work. He owned that and he had built a new house on St. Louis Heights, so that it was vacant and that's how we happened to live there. Then Wendell was born.

S: Wendell was born in what year?

SM: February 1935.

M: Well, anyway, after Wendell was born, she had to go to Kula [Maui] for almost a year.

S: And who took care of little Wendell, did you?

M: My father came out from Kona. For about thirty days after he was born, our family doctor took care of Wendell at

his home. And my father came to get Wendell and took him to Kona.

SM: Actually, his sister took care of Wendell because soon after we were married my mother-in-law passed away. So his sister raised Wendell and Grandpa helped too, of course.

S: Your parents didn't look after him though?

SM: No. I didn't want them to because they were sort of elderly and both were busy with the hat store that my father owned.

M: Then after one year in Kula she came back, but Wendell stayed a couple more years in Kona while she was recovering. The doctor said Pauoa was too wet, so we had to find a place that was not so damp. We found a place on Fifteenth Avenue in Kaimuki.

S: Good place.

M: Yes. Wendell did not come back for another year, I think.

S: He stayed three or four years with your father. Does he remember any of that in Kona?

SM: Oh, yes. He was very fond of his Kona Grandpa, and always talked about him for a long time. Looking back, I am very happy that Grandpa had a chance to live with his only grandchild whom he had waited for so long. I feel this was fate that brought the situation. There are many pictures of him and a happy Grandpa of those days.

S: Where was your father's hat store? In downtown Honolulu?

SM: On Nuuanu Street between Hotel and Pauahi.

S: I wonder if my father knew your father, because all the merchants down there did. What was the name of your father's store?

SM: Ozu Hat Store. It used to be across from the old Love's Bakery on Nuuanu Street. I used to watch how they made bread as it was all visible from the street through the large plate glass.

S: Well, many people wore hats then, didn't they?

SM: Oh, yes, they wore hats and we had them for men, women and children. A lot of the men wore the straw hats. You know that one style, the stiff straw hat with the wide black band that Charlie Chaplin always wore in the movies. Also

caps for the men were very popular. The ladies' hats were very pretty, trimmed with colored ostrich feathers, all sorts of artificial flowers, nets, and fancy long hat pins with decorated heads. I used to help out, too.

S: In the store?

SM: Yes, in the store after school when I was a student, and at night as the store was opened until eight o'clock every night.

S: Did young Mr. Marumoto get his hats from your father's store?

S: I never saw him. Don't know why he didn't come to buy his hats there. (laughter)

M: I might have bought. I forgot.

S: Tell me, did you come from a large family? Do you have brothers and sisters?

SM: No. Actually I come from a family of five children, but two were never here. My oldest brother graduated from Keio University and my older sister married and went to live in Vancouver. My second brother lives here now but studied at Keio U., so actually I grew up with my younger sister. So I consider the family small.

M: If you read Bud Smyser's article about his visit to Hiroshima which appeared in yesterday's Star-Bulletin on the editorial page, ["Backing the Decision to Bomb" August 6, 1985] he mentions about my going to Hiroshima right after the end of the war on my way back from Korea, and that I had a relative who was a victim of the atom bomb. That was Shigeko's oldest brother.

SM: He was with one of the Mitsui banks in Kobe. When the war got so that it became very dangerous in that area and having five children, he asked to be transferred to the country where our father's home was. He was immediately given permission to move to Hiroshima and the family thought they were very safe there. But that particular morning, my sister-in-law said that he left home fifteen minutes earlier than usual and that made the tragic difference.

S: He was caught.

SM: Yes. He was killed and his body was never found.

S: How about his wife and children?

SM: Well, when the blast came, my sister-in-law was outside in the back yard and she said that the blast pushed her

against the stone wall there. The children were all going to school so none of them were at home at that moment. When my husband visited them in January of the following year, he was told that one of my nephews, his hair had dropped out completely, he was bald.

S: From the radiation.

SM: From the radiation, and so when I heard that, I was afraid it might affect his life later, but today he's the father of two very bright children.

S: Did he recover his hair?

SM: Yes, he recovered. By the time Masaji went, he had his hair back.

S: With no other physical...?

SM: No, fortunately.

M: Several miles from the center.

S: And your brother was probably very near the center.

SM: So when my sister-in-law went to look for him, there were so much...

S: Debris and rubble.

SM: She walked a lot, looking for her husband every day for a whole week. And she said some of the people, she could see their skin had just peeled off and was hanging, but they didn't seem to know about it, you know, they just walked in a daze. And she was never able to find her husband.

S: Oh, the tragedies of war.

SM: But my cousin's daughter even to this day, it's a sad thing, puts a handkerchief or something over her mouth area and she never shows the lower portion of her face.

S: How old was she when the bomb hit? Was she quite young?

SM: I think she was just a youngster and now she must be in her forties. To this day she covers her mouth. They have a store in Miyajima and I did see her helping in the store, but she's at home, never married. Of course, she wore the kerchief always over her mouth, so I knew there must have been something wrong.

M: After I got the order to come back to Hawaii, I got to Tokyo because there was no direct transport from Korea to

Hawaii. And then I had two weeks' wait to get surface transportation, because so many were coming back that there was no airplane transportation available.

So about the end of January 1946, I decided to visit Shigeko's family and, being a GI, I would have free transportation, and I could also get a sleeper, too. And then I thought of taking some money to her brother's family. Well, the next morning I got off the train, no money, no purse, somebody had picked my pocket. It was all gone.

END OF TAPE 3/SIDE 1

June 10, 1986

S: What did you do then?

M: Well, the train reached the Hiroshima depot about five o'clock in the evening. It was already getting dark, end of January. And Shigeko's older brother had been manager of the Hiroshima branch of Mitsui bank. I did not know that during the war the name had been changed from Mitsui Bank to Teikoku Bank or Imperial Bank. And nobody would answer me. I was in American uniform.

Finally, I decided that I would try and go to the home of my best client in Honolulu, the Sumida Company. And he was living probably about ten miles east of the station. I asked a person, "Is there any train that goes to this particular place?" At least he answered, "That train is going now. You better run." So I ran and then it was almost dark when I reached that village. I asked for the home of Mr. Nakano who was the owner of Bon Ton Store, Fort and Pauahi Street. And I knocked and when he saw me he almost toppled over.

S: Very surprised.

M: He said, "Okay. You sleep in my home and I'll have my neighbor come over for dinner with us," and the neighbor was the older brother of Mr. Sumida here who operated Sumida Company, the biggest Japanese businessman here. He was the older brother, so we three had a nice dinner at Mr. Nakano's home. The next morning he took me to Hiroshima on a streetcar.

S: Well, when you went on the train from Tokyo, did you go to Hiroshima?

M: Direct. Hiroshima Station. And being a GI, I didn't have to pay anything. I could get a sleeper, too. I don't know where I was pickpocketed because I was sound alseep.

S: But you didn't have any money to operate and to go about in Hiroshima.

M: Well, I was in uniform so I never paid for a thing.

S: Doors opened everywhere.

M: Then we went to Hiroshima and I was in American uniform and there were a few laborers squatting down to take a puff, smoking, and I suppose they didn't know that I would understand Japanese and they said, "Well, because of guys like you we are suffering." They knew I was an American.

Then we asked for Teikoku Bank. Mr. Nakano knew that Mitsui Bank had been changed to Teikoku Bank. Then Mr. Nakano was informed that the old bank had been blasted and they were conducting business in a wooden, temporary accommodation. I went to the bank and the first person I met was a person named Inouye. Inouye happened to be the younger brother of Shigeko's sister-in-law.

SM: My older brother's wife.

M: He told me that Shigeko's older brother had been lost in the atom bomb and his body could not be found. Then from there, I think the street car transportation was blasted away. So Mr. Nakano and I walked about five miles.

SM: Oh, it was a long way.

M: And finally we got to the home which Shigeko's father had built.

S: Before he left Japan to settle here?

SM: No, he built it after he came here. There was an old home, but after he came here and worked and had his business then I think he built that home.

S: He went back?

SM: He went back to see it. It was built later, not the same home that he left when he came. It's a beautiful house. Large and well designed.

M: After Mr. Nakano and I reached the home, I forget whether Mr. Nakano called out the name or we knocked, but in any event the lady came out and here I was in American uniform, and she didn't know why an American soldier would be at her home. She had lost her husband, couldn't find him, then this American soldier at her doorstep. You just couldn't describe...

S: This was your sister-in-law.

SM: She was so shocked to see him in military uniform.

M: And I said, "I'm Marumoto, Shigeko's husband." She just prostrated herself, didn't say a word and then she recovered and said, "Glad to meet you." And I don't know how it was that I happened to spend the evening with her at her home, but I decided to spend the evening at their home. Mr. Nakano went back.

And then in the evening, of course, before that she told me all about walking on the side of the streetcar rail for one whole week to see whether by any chance the body of her husband could be found.

And then in the evening she invited the successor of Shigeko's brother as manager of the Hiroshima branch of Imperial Bank, and we had a nice dinner together. This may be of interest to you. One of the things he said was that the problem with the Japanese government was that businessmen couldn't do any work because there was so much reporting required by the government, and they spent most of their time filing reports to the government instead of doing real work.

S: Reports to the Japanese government?

SM: What kind of reports? Transactions and all that?

M: I don't know what kind. Anyway, you know how technical Japanese are, keeping records. They spend most of their time filing government reports instead of doing business. And, for instance, persons like you here who would have been connected with business, you can imagine how it was.

S: Very frustrating.

M: It was very frustrating. So we had a very interesting conversation.

S: I can imagine. How long did you stay in Hiroshima then?

M: I think I stayed a couple of days at that time. I forget what I did, but in any event I visited Shigeko's relatives and I think Morikubo was back in Japan.

SM: Oh, really?

M: A person who had gone back to Japan just before the war started in the same village. So we visited.

S: Did you see a lot of people that were obviously physically affected by the bomb? Burns or...?

M: I never did, I never did. I don't know where they were, but I never did. Shigeko's nephews and nieces didn't show any sign of being affected.

S: You said only one person, that girl. Because the emphasis in the publicity for the bomb leaves you with the feeling that ninety percent of the people in Hiroshima are badly affected.

M: Of course their home was not in the center of the city, probably three or four miles away. And I know on the way we passed by a very nice home, but it was half blasted away and that was the home of Mr. Hata of Hilo. A very successful businessman. Hilo merchant.

S: Oh, Hata's store in Hilo.

M: There was Y. Hata and S. Hata and this was S. Hata.

S: S. Hata's in Hilo [313 Kamehameha Avenue] and Y. Hata's in the wholesale grocery here.

M: And S. Hata before the war had established a branch in Honolulu. The Honolulu branch, I think, was next to that brewery on Queen Street. [559 S. Queen] Y. Hata didn't establish any branch in Honolulu, but they were prominent in Hilo.

S: But there is Y. Hata here now?

M: Yes.

SM: Are you talking about S. Hata or Y. Hata?

M: Y. Hata. S. Hata is the one which established the branch in Honolulu and Y. came in later. After the war S. Hata became very prominent and rich by importing Japanese textiles and yard goods. Cherry Blossom store on Kalakaua.

S: Oh, is that his shop? I always thought it was owned by a lady known as Mrs. Nakamura.

M: Yes, Nakamura is the son-in-law.

S: Oh, then Mrs. Nakamura is a Hata. Is she still living? She was a lovely lady. She would be quite elderly.

SM: I think she passed away.

S: It's a small place. Most of you people who have done so well seem to be from the same area in Japan. Is that true? Your family came from the same area, right? Hiroshima?

M: The biggest Japanese merchant was Fujii and...

SM: That's right, he's from Hiroshima, too.

S: Who's the biggest?

SM: Fujii. Fujii Junichi Store, if you remember.

M: He operated the sake brewery, Fuji Sake in Kakaako.

S: I'm not familiar with that.

M: S. Hata died. Y. Hata was in Hilo, so he wasn't affected. And S. Hata's son survived and after the war he came here.

SM: Are they brothers?

M: Yes. And then S. Hata and Union Supply and Von Hamm Young made money because they were the three firms that had permits to import Japanese textiles.

S: And this was after World War II?

M: Yes, you needed permission from, I think, the U. S. government to import. There was a quota.

S: That's right. For the first two years you did, because my father used to import a lot of Japanese kabe prints.

SM: Oh yes, I remember kabe.

M: Those were the three which had the required permit. But I digressed.

S: That's all right. This is what makes it interesting. I wanted to ask you when did your father come here, Shigeko?

SM: You know, I wish I knew. I was just telling my brother, who's older than I, what made Father come? What prompted him to come to Hawaii and how did it happen that he got into business right away? My brother said he wished he had asked. My brother, who is eighty now, was born in 1905, so my father must have been here I don't know how many years before that. I just don't know when he came. But he was never in the plantation, not a laborer.

S: He never became a citizen?

SM: No, he never did. He passed away in 1945.

M: What happened was in May 1945 I was graduating from Judge Advocate General's Officer Training School at the University of Michigan.

S: Nineteen forty-five? You went back then?

M: Nineteen forty-five. The war had not ended yet. And then we had a graduation banquet. During the banquet a telegram was delivered to me. I thought it would be a telegram congratulating me on the occasion, but I didn't think we were allowed to write about those details, so I had not written. The telegram, everybody thought I had a telegram congratulating me, but when I looked at it, it was a telegram from Shigeko that her father was very seriously ill. So I stuck that into my pocket and pretended that nothing serious had happened and went through the celebration. Then the following day he died.

SM: He died very fast.

S: You didn't get to come home at that time?

M: No, I didn't go home at that time.

S: And your mother lived afterwards?

SM: Yes, she lived until 1963, until she was eighty-eight.

S: That's a good age.

END OF TAPE 4/SIDE 1

July 16, 1986

S: You went to McKinley High School?

SM: I went to McKinley High School and I wanted to go to college, but I didn't want to go to the University of Hawaii. I told my father that I wanted to get away and go to a mainland college. Well, he said no that was absolutely not necessary. And so I didn't go away. I think he had the idea that boys could go to college, but girls should eventually get married.

S: Did he want you to learn about housekeeping and things like that?

SM: Yes, and about business.

S: So you can handle your husband's money.

SM: (laughs) Probably. Well, anyway my two brothers went to Keio University, supposedly one of the best private colleges. There were my oldest brother and my oldest sister. They never came to Hawaii. She went to Yamanaka Kotojogakko, one of the top Hiroshima girls' schools. It's a private high school.

And she married the brother of a very wealthy man in Vancouver, an importer. He was a younger brother and went over there with his bride, my sister. The brother was supposedly one of the four or five most prosperous Japanese men from Japan in Vancouver where he had about five stores, Vancouver and Victoria, and they did very well. But during the Depression they were hit so hard, the brother told them to go back to Japan before they all starved. By then they had five children. So my sister and her husband and the children went back to Kobe to live, where they originally came from. They were from Hiroshima but they lived in Kobe before they went to Vancouver.

S: Kobe is a big business center.

SM: Yes, and we have an Indian relative, you know.

S: You do?

SM: Yes, my sister's husband's sister was married to an Indian merchant in Kobe, and he became very successful and so when my sister's family came back, they practically supported the family until my brother-in-law got back on his feet.

S: Isn't that interesting.

SM: I think the name was Mehta. Yes, M-E-H-T-A.

S: That's a good Indian name.

SM: That's when I was growing up. I'm sorry that he didn't live long enough for me to meet him. I got some beautiful gold material from them. Mrs. Mehta gave it to my sister, I think, for her to send it to me. Oh, it was beautiful, really beautiful. I wish I had it today. It was gold thread, gold and black.

S: And you went to school here after McKinley?

SM: No, I taught one year at the Japanese language school because at that time my Japanese high school, run by the Hongwangji Mission Temple, went beyond high school. There

were one or two years of upper class beyond high school. Then there was a year where...would you call normal?

S: Maybe Normal School.

SM: Normal School where they taught you to become a language school teacher.

S: So they taught you to teach?

SM: Yes. So after graduating, I taught at Maemae Language School which was up in Nuuanu. After the English classes were dismissed, a few classrooms were taken over by the Japanese language school.

S: Isn't Maemae School still there?

SM: Yes, it's still there. [319 Wyllie] So I taught for one year, and then a friend of mine who was working at Yokohama Specie Bank said she was going to leave, and she said she would like for me to meet the manager and get into her position, and I said that would be fine. It would be right in town where my father had the store, so I was hired then, and above was Masaji's office that I had heard about.

S: He already had his eye on you.

SM: Oh, I don't know. (laughs)

S: How long did you work at the bank before you got married?

SM: I think about two years. And in those days, I don't know how I should say it, but we were raised not exactly strictly, but then among our classmates when we had a boyfriend, that was something.

S: You were a little bit fast if you have a boyfriend?

SM: Yes, that is right. So, while I was still in school there was always somebody who wanted to be a go-between and say, "I know this nice boy. How about meeting his parents?" or "I know a good boy and maybe..."

S: A family would want to find a wife for their son.

SM: That's right. And I had quite a few.

S: Your family must have been approached a number of times for you.

SM: Not a number of times, but I did have a few and wasn't interested at all. I wasn't ready, I think, and I didn't know the people, you know, but that's the way it was in those

days. You wouldn't know that particular person, but after your parents approved, why they somehow got together and that was when they started to know each other and got engaged.

S: It was all very proper.

SM: Yes, very proper. And I used to say, "Oh, my word, another one." (laughs)

S: You were a little bored with it.

SM: Sort of, because there wasn't anybody that I knew. Usually there were ministers who were interested because I went to Hongwanji and they knew the boys, so when Masaji came along I said, "You are the seventh one." (laughs)

S: Lucky seven. Well, it's interesting how you decided which one to take.

SM: That's right. I remember thinking, "When is the right one coming?" But it was the manager of the bank who talked about him to my parents. And then the Bishop's wife knew me also. I was tutored under her. They knew our family well because my mother was a devout Buddhist. So, I don't know who the other one was, but long after Masaji's sister told me that the strangest thing was that three different people all were talking about the same girl. The three different people came and spoke to her father mentioning me, so I guess it was fate. (laughs)

S: Absolutely, (laughs) it was made in heaven.

What did you do at the bank?

SM: I was a teller.

S: No machines or computers in those days.

SM: No, nothing but abacus.

S: Abacus! Not even adding machines.

SM: No, everybody used an abacus.

S: The original adding machine. Did you know that before you went to the bank?

SM: Yes, I knew a little about it because I attended a class to learn it. I forget where it was, but I did know how to do adding and subtracting on it. I don't recall seeing adding machines at the bank then.

S: Were the banking hours short in those days like they are now?

SM: From eight to two. Then your work begins afterward and you didn't come home until four or four-thirty. And the men folks usually stayed much later. After the bank closed, then you had to total up the sums and so forth.

S: How did you get to and from work?

SM: I walked, because my father had the hat store on Nuuanu Street and for a time we lived upstairs. Later, we moved up behind Hongwanji in the Punchbowl area, Lusitana Street. But before that we lived upstairs for a while. The store had high ceilings, then you went upstairs and there were more high ceilings. And we had that whole area upstairs. I don't know how long we lived there. I went to school from there. Then we moved into a cottage on Lusitana Street.

S: I know in those early days people did live downtown and upstairs.

SM: Very convenient.

S: The only bad point though, the man never gets away from his work.

SM: That's right.

M: Weren't you born in Matsumoto Lane?

SM: No, that was my sister. I was born...I don't know exactly where I was born. The earliest recollections from looking at the pictures...I wish I had asked my parents where I was born and so forth. (laughs)

S: You were born in Honolulu?

SM: Oh, yes. First my father had a store on Hotel Street between Nuuanu and Bethel, and then later on he moved to Nuuanu Street. I must have been born upstairs of the Hotel Street store. You could climb up the stairs and go over the roofs of all the other stores. Along the way, there was that Chinese restaurant that I could peer down into. You could see all the cooks working.

S: Was that Wo Fat?

SM: No, it wasn't that far down. It was on Nuuanu just this side of Hotel Street. It's all so dilapidated now. All kinds of junky stores.

S: That part of town since the War...

SM: Love's Bakery was just across from my father's store. I could see all the bread going on the machine through the large plate glass window, and the smell was so good.

S: Nothing like a good bakery smell. Then, of course, you got married. You told us in detail about that. When was your daughter born?

SM: Twelve years after Wendell.

S: That's quite a difference in age.

SM: The funniest thing is that I was born in the year of the boar according to the Oriental zodiac, then my son was born in the year of the boar, and then I brought a daughter in in the boar's year, too.

S: All boars. You're not a boar? (addresses the Judge)

M: No, I'm a horse.

SM: With a horse and a boar in the family, we get things done fast, but there are times I regret my quick decisions. And I believe in these things, that many times you fit the personality of the animal of the year that you're born in.

M: In Japanese belief, there are twelve animals but also there's another element. And the particular year that I was born, the Japanese didn't want a girl to be born because I don't know why, but.... In any event those who are fortunate, well, they are very fortunate, but the majority of them, the girls would be unfortunate. So when I was born, my father was relieved that I was a boy.

SM: Yes, but several women that we know, our good friends, were born in that year and they married well and are doing very well.

S: Yes, because usually the wife is younger. So your daughter was born in the year of the boar and what year would that be?

M: Nineteen forty-seven. Because Wendell was born in 1935, twelve years apart.

SM: They say it's lucky to have three of a kind in one family.

M: I came back in March of 1946, because the war ended in 1945, and as soon as the war ended I was sent to Korea and then I served in Korea for five months. And I came back in March. The Army officers were very nice, extremely nice.

That is, I could have been a captain but if I accepted a captaincy, I would be stuck for another six months. I didn't want to be stuck in the Army for another six months.

Then an opening came, not in the military government because in the military government an officer was frozen for six months regardless of how many points you had. I think at the time, the points were sixty-seven or something. I forgot how they counted it, but I would have attained those points, I think, in January. A proposition was made to me. Why don't you accept captaincy? I said, "No, thank you. I want to go home." And I had the head of the legal department who was a very gruff person, people thought he didn't have human kindness and so forth. All the top Army officers, as soon as they got the points, they went back. So in the Twenty-Fourth Corps the position of Judge Advocate of the Corps, usually held by a colonel, was being held by a second lieutenant.

These officers, as soon as they had enough points, they went back. So the acting Judge Advocate who was one class ahead of me at the Officers School, and that's how he knew me, said, "Why don't you come over? I need help." So I told my superior officer, head of the legal department of military government, and I said, "I have a chance to go to the Corps Judge Advocate's office. Will you release me?" And he said, "I know you want to go home and that's the only fast way you can go back. I need you, but I don't want to deprive you of the chance of getting home."

But he did not have the final say. The Adjutant of the Twenty-Fourth Corps had the final say. I did not know that. He was supposed to be a very tough colonel. So my superior officer said, "I'll talk to the Adjutant and see what he says." I never met him and because of his reputation for being tough, and because I was leaving the military government, I didn't think I had a chance of shifting over to the Corps Headquarters, but surprisingly this supposedly tough colonel told my superior officer, "I will not interfere with his chance of going back, so I will approve." So just before Christmas I was transferred over to the Judge Advocate's office of the Twenty-Fourth Corps and within three weeks I was on my way home.

The Corps badly needed a Judge Advocate officer, but there the officers weren't frozen like in the military government. And then I was transferred over and I had a grand time in the Corps Judge Advocate's office. I was probably, no question, the only Oriental and probably was the lowest ranking Judge Advocate to sit down at the Corps staff meeting giving legal advice.

S: Very good.

M: It was really an interesting experience being in the Corps Judge Advocate's office. Then in the division level--Seventh division, Sixth division--the Judge Advocate would be at least a lieutenant colonel. They would not come over. They wanted to go home. So the Judge Advocate's Office of the Corps was run by two lieutenants and then, although we were inferior in rank to the division Judge Advocate, we were the Judge Advocate of the Corps, so a colonel in the division --Seventh division, Sixth division--had to consult us for the final decision "what to do." It was all a mixed up thing and they didn't mind. They telephoned me. They knew that I was not a Caucasian officer, the only Oriental officer in the military government.

S: Very unusual.

M: He wanted to go back and he wouldn't come over. He knew that situation and he didn't mind asking a lieutentant, and not only a lieutenant, but an Oriental officer, for a final decision on what he should do. It was the funniest situation.

S: I think you must have enjoyed that.

M: Oh, yes. And they were very nice. They knew that, for instance, on court martial cases the Corps Judge Advocate had to give the final decision on what the final punishment would be and so forth. We had to review and he didn't mind.

S: You did all the work, so he had to listen to what you said.

M: And we talked over the telephone. I never met him, but he was very pleasant over the telephone, so in one letter I said to her (indicating Shigeko), "I'm enjoying it because I probably am the only Oriental Judge Advocate officer at the Corps level."

S: You might have been in the whole United States Army.

M: No question. Anyway, within three weeks I was on my way home.

S: It was on your way back that you detoured down to Hiroshima.

M: Yes, to see Shigeko's family. By that time we were not essential as far as coming back here was concerned. So from Korea to near Tokyo we got air transportation, but from then on I had to wait for surface transportation. And surface transportation was not available for two weeks. That's why during that period I went down to Hiroshima.

S: When you did get the ship to come back to Hawaii, how long did it take?

M: Well, it went to Okinawa first to get some more military personnel who were coming back, so we detoured and then came back, so it must have taken about three weeks. If I check my letters to her, I can tell you.

S: Well, you must have been the only Oriental on the ship.

M: No, there was another Japanese who went to the language school, a lieutenant who was on his way back. And there was Colonel Traut. He was, before he got into the Army, an officer of Consolidated Amusement Company and he was, in his University of Hawaii days, the best center.

S: Oh, good football player.

M: Yes. He was captain of the first McKinley High School team to win the interscholastic league championship. Another one was part-Hawaiian. He was also a colonel and he was there.

SM: What's his name now?

M: Leon Sterling. He's in Kona.

SM: We used to know him so well. He's a pastor now. A minister in Kona.

M: We had a grand time on the boat. We were processed right away. It didn't take too long.

S: Was your law office in operation while you were in the Army?

M: Yes, Mr. Murakami carried on. He was very nice.

SM: He took good care of me financially.

M: I won't say what figure every month he used to give Shigeko. I said, "Well, I'm not producing any income. Cut it into half." So he cut it in half, but it was enough for her to live comfortably and send Wendell to Hanahauoli School.

S: Hanahauoli? We all went there.

SM: Both Wendell and Claire went to Hanahauoli, too. You knew Miss Palmer. She was wonderful.

S: What a lovely person. She was there when I was there and I think I entered Hanahauoli when I was six. That was

1929. She passed away about three years ago I guess. Do you have her book that she wrote about Hanahauoli? It's a charming book.

SM: Yes, I think we have. Is it with us now or does Claire have it?

S: Well, Claire was born in 1947 and by this time Wendell must have been in Punahou.

SM: Yes, he was in Punahou and I recall when Claire arrived, he immediately reported it and I said, "Oh, that's too soon." It was a Friday. And he said, "I told the teacher I have a sister." I said, "Well, you should have waited until we named her." "Oh but," he said, "then it's Saturday and Sunday." (laughs)

S: He was so excited. So by the time she was entering first grade, he was entering college. Almost. And Wendell went on to Chicago. Followed in your footsteps. And how about Claire?

SM: Claire went to Bryn Mawr.

S: It's a good woman's college. Did she graduate? What did she major in?

SM: Economics. She was good in French. At Hanahauoli she received a certificate. You know how they used to sing French songs. So right through Hanahauoli she had French and then in Punahou she took French as her foreign language. And she wanted to major in French in college, but we told her, "What are you going to do with it?" because we knew she didn't care to be a teacher. Well, the only thing is to become a diplomat or a school teacher. But a woman diplomat was out of the question then.

S: Well, she probably could have gone into the foreign service, but she might never have been sent to France.

SM: That's right. So her major was economics.

S: She must have had excellent grades. An A student.

SM: Yes, she did quite well, fortunately.

M: After the first year she became friends with a student from Japan who later became a simultaneous translator, and she told Claire that if she wanted to go to Japan, there were all kinds of summer jobs. So Claire telephoned Shigeko and said, "Will you ask the Fujimotos?"

SM: Our go-between from the bank.

M: The one who really got us together. We telephoned and talked about Claire working in Japan and asked, "Will you be the sponsor?"

SM: Mrs. Fujimoto was so nice, she said, "Well, if you want me to get acquainted with Claire, I can go to Hawaii and meet her and bring her back with me." We told her, "No, no, it isn't necessary for you to do that."

M: In any event, before the whole thing happened, Claire wrote to ten Japanese companies and out of the ten only four answered. And of the four, three said, "We have no jobs," but one company said, "If you have a sponsor, a person who will be responsible for you, we have a summer position for you." That's when Claire telephoned and that's why we telephoned the Fujimotos. Then we had to get a working visa.

SM: The company was Toshiba.

M: The Japanese Consulate said it would take about two or three months to get a working visa instead of a visitor visa. With visitor visa there was no problem.

S: And what month was this? What month did you apply for the visa?

M: I forget. Anyway, we telephoned Claire, "Write to this international division head and thank him for offering the job, but because of the visa situation you'll not be able to accept." Then she immediately got an answer from the department head saying, "You don't have to worry about a working visa, we will not pay you any salary, but we will give you a gratuity."

S: Oh, that's a nice way to get around it.

SM: Yes.

M: So she went to Japan, and she had a grand time working for Toshiba, and if you'll excuse me, and this won't be part of this, but I'll show you something that Claire gave me.

END OF TAPE 5/SIDE 1

July 25, 1986

S: I think we still have quite a bit to cover about your career. Where would you like to start on that? Perhaps we should pick up when you came back from the war and rejoined Mr. Murakami. You said that he had sent Shigeko a check every month while you were in the service. So you went back into that firm?

M: That is right. I think I was with Murakami a couple of years, maybe three years after I came back from the Army. Then I decided that I would separate and open my own individual practice and that's what I did.

S: So you were by yourself. And did you have legal help with you?

M: After I separated from Murakami I had at first one assistant, and later two assistants.

S: Were these young lawyers or were they like paralegal people?

M: They were young lawyers who had just passed the bar examination and they are all doing very well. One of them is Spark Matsunaga. A Senator. He had passed the bar, and he didn't know what to do. So I said, "I'll give you a proposition. You come to my office and I'll give you enough so that at least you won't have to worry where your next meal is coming from." He was one of them.

Then there was a young lawyer who is doing very well now not only in law, but in business. He is counsel for, what's that hamburger firm?

SM: Takushi.

M: But what's the business?

SM: Zippy's.

M: Zippy's. He has an interest in that. Then he also participated in some real estate development. So he's doing well. So I had Spark, and aside from him, I had a couple of other lawyers. I always had two.

S: But they were never partners in the firm?

M: No, they were never partners. Then when I was appointed judge, I had to have some attorney who would take good care of my clients, and so I asked Suyeki Okumura, Reverend Okumura's son.

S: Oh, I know Suyeki Okumura. He's a fine gentleman.

M: So when I was getting out of law practice, I considered who I should turn over the business to a great deal. At that time I had Sparky working for me, Takushi working for me, but Sparky was a politician, you know. Then, too much of his time was taken in politics.

S: Was he running for local office?

M: Oh, yes. Legislature. So I thought of Suyeki. One reason why I thought of Suyeki was that I thought he had a pretty good legal background. He was a deputy city and county attorney, and then I owed a great deal to his father Reverend Okumura. Reverend Okumura, of course, was probably the leader among Japanese Christians and I was a Buddhist, but as far as advancement of second generation was concerned to him and the way I was always treated by him, there was no difference in Okumura between Christian and Buddhist.

He knew I was a protege of the Bishop of Hongwanji Mission who was his biggest rival. But he was on the same scholarship committee which provided me the scholarship to go to Chicago. He was secretary of that scholarship association. Then when I graduated from the University of Chicago and I was making the rounds of the Harvard campus with the son of the Buddhist Bishop whom we have talked about, because he was a student at Harvard and he was taking me around the Harvard Yard showing me which building was which. Then on the steps of Widener library, I bumped into Reverend Okumura because Reverend Okumura had come to the East with his daughter who got married in New York. After her marriage he came to visit Harvard, and it was by accident that we bumped into each other at Widener Library, and here I was with the son of his biggest rival as far as religion was concerned.

We exchanged greetings and he was secretary of the scholarhip society. I introduced the Bishop's son to him at that time. He said, "Mr. Marumoto, you have one more year of scholarship, don't you?" I said, "No, I don't think so because my understanding is that the scholarship is until I graduated from college, and I got my degree at Chicago and I think I don't have any more scholarship." He said, "No, I think the scholarship is for four years. It doesn't say anything about finishing college or anything, and my understanding is that you have one more year. So will you send a letter to my home writing about it and I'll check it out for you."

Then he went back and he wrote to me, "I am correct that the scholarship is for four years, not just until you graduate from college. So you will have one more year of scholarship," which meant $600 a year at that time. It was a good scholarhip in those days because Harvard Law School tuition had gone up that year from $300 to $400 . Not like $8,000 now. But still it was helpful because one week's board in the rooming house was five dollars a week, and then you could get by at maybe between a dollar and a dollar and a quarter a day for meals. So it was very helpful.

So he was very fair in that respect, and that was my relationship with his son who graduated from New York University, and when I made the proposal to him whether he would take over my practice because I wanted to have somebody who was very responsible to take over my practice, and regardless of what you say, persons who are interested in politics have too much outside activity to think about that.

S: Of course they do.

M: So Sparky opened his own office and he took my old-time secretary with him who is still his principal secretary and who runs the Honolulu office.

S: That wasn't quite fair for him to take your secretary. (laughs)

M: Well, she was not actually my regular secretary. My regular secretary at that time, Kimi Sugamura, was a very capable secretary and the other one had married and had two or three children, so she was not working, but then the children had grown and she was available for secretarial work and was working for me. When Sparky was working for me, I assigned her for Sparky's work. So when he opened his office, he took her with him and she was lucky, too, in this respect that she was the principal employee of Sparky's office. She runs the Honolulu office to this very day.

S: To this very day. Isn't that interesting.

SM: And Sparky's always been very nice to you. Whenever you have anything to do with Washington.

M: Sparky has never said no to me on anything I asked.

S: Well, you wouldn't ask anything that wasn't proper, and also I think Sparky has the reputation for being very considerate of all his constituents.

M: Yes. Then Okumura, after thinking it over for a while, maybe about a month, he had to think quite a bit and decided he'd take over. He formed a partnership with this young attorney whom I had, Roy Takushi. And right now they have a great business, and Roy Takushi and Suyeki Okumura are the heads of the law firm with fourteen partners.

S: That is large.

M: That's large even now. And I never asked Okumura when I became judge for anything for turning over my office to them. Whether I might have charged them for the depreciated cost of furniture and books and so forth, I'm not too sure. But Sparky appreciated it because he knew his situation. As a person interested in politics he might not fit into that

situation, but I did carry him when he was starting out. I said, "I'll give you 'X' dollars which will be enough for you to live fairly well. Whatever you make, 'X' dollars of business you bring in, you take the first 'X' dollars until" --and it came out to a fairly large sum. Actually, it didn't go beyond that sum too many times. So I carried him. So Sparky and my relations in that regard have been excellent, although I didn't turn over my business to him. It would have been unfair to the others to turn over on a half-and-half basis because he was interested in politics.

S: About what year was this?

M: I became a judge in 1956.

S: And that was of the Circuit Court?

M: The Supreme Court.

S: You were rather young to be appointed to the Supreme Court, weren't you?

M: Not really. Exactly fifty. What happened was, in 1955 Bill Rogers was Deputy Attorney General, number two man in the Attorney General's office. U. S. Attorney General was Herbert Brownell and Rogers was the number two man. And he had the business of recommending to President Eisenhower who the judges should be. He came here for the Republican convention in the summer of 1955, and at that time Sam King had become Governor and he asked Sam King whether he could interest me in becoming a judge. The judgeship at that time was as Circuit Court judge. Sam King said, "We tried, but we cannot convince him to become a judge," because at that time the Circuit Court judge's salary was only $12,000 and out of that the federal portion was $7,500; the rest was made up from the state. And the state did not have any retirement to speak of. The federal portion you had to serve for ten years and then you got one hundred percent retirement. And I wasn't interested.

Then at that time quite a number of persons wanted to get an appointment with Bill Rogers because they were interested in judgeship. He knew that I was not interested, but he asked Sam King whether it would do any good for him to see me personally. Bill Rogers avoided everybody who wanted to be judge and after the Republican dinner he took off to Kauai with his wife, and instead of coming back to Honolulu to meet some people, he took off from the airport back to the mainland, but young Sam King telephoned me. He said, "Bill Rogers wants to see you and talk to you about a judgeship. You will get a call from Kauai to meet him at the airport."

I was at a directors' meeting of a finance company, and in the midst of the meeting a telephone call came and I knew

it was from Bill Rogers. And Bill Rogers said, "I'm leaving Kauai now and taking the plane back to the mainland. I will not be in town, but I want to see you." I knew what it was all about. When he asked Sam King about my availability, King said, "We tried to get Marumoto, but we cannot convince him, and I'm not sure you can convince him either." But he wanted to talk to me. So I went to the airport with Shigeko and we met Bill Rogers and his wife at the airport, and he knew what my position was. But he said he wanted me to think it over.

When he went back to Washington, he wrote to me again and I have all those letters saying, "I wish you would consider seriously our discussion." As a matter of fact, I sent him copies of my federal tax returns and said, "This is the situation. I have been in the Army and when the attorneys were making the biggest money during the war, I was out on buck private's pay and lieutenant's pay. With the salary being what it is right now, I don't think I can afford right now to accept it." He wrote back to me from Washington saying, "I understand your position, but will you keep it in mind." And this was around August or September of 1955.

Then in February of 1956 I got a telephone call at five o'clock in the morning. I think Shigeko remembers that.

S: It woke you up.

M: Yes, and then I said--at that time I was president of Nuuanu Memorial Park--and I said, "Darn it, somebody must have died and they want me to arrange a funeral." (laughter) But it was Betty Farrington, and Betty Farrington was the delegate at that time, and Betty said, "Masaji, did I wake you up?" I said, "Sure." "Bill Rogers wants you to be a judge." I said, "What judgeship?" "Supreme Court judgeship." "When does he want an answer?" "He wants an answer right away."

I told Betty, "You tell Bill Rogers I will not take any interim appointment. If I am nominated, confirmed by the Senate and appointed regularly, I will accept, but I'm not going to take an interim appointment for a judgeship. Particularly in that situation." The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee which had to approve it was [James O.] Eastland, supposedly the leader of the racists. So I didn't want to take a chance on closing my office up and taking an interim appointment. So that was my answer to Bill Rogers.

So Bill Rogers started the ball rolling, and then it took some time for formal investigation and so forth. And I was finally nominated and then nobody thought that I would be confirmed by Eastland, I being Japanese and Eastland supposedly being the leader of the racist element.

S: In the Senate.

M: In the Senate. And he was the chairman.

END OF TAPE 5/SIDE 2

August 14, 1986

S: Now this, of course, was after you were a judge. You closed your office and then moved into the Supreme Court Building.

M: That's right.

S: Where was the Supreme Court in those days?

M: Same place where it is now.

S: Oh, same spot. And then the Supreme Court cases were all local that you handled?

M: All local.

S: Who else was on the bench with you at that time?

M: [Ingram M.] Stainback and [Phillip] Rice. Rice was the Chief Justice; Stainback was the Associate Justice.

S: There were how many of you?

M: Three. Hewitt was nominated in February; I was nominated in May. Hewitt was just pigeonholed by Eastland. His name was never brought up for confirmation.

S: Was that Harry Hewitt? I remember him.

M: He's living next door.

S: So there were three of you on the Supreme Court?

M: Three of us on the Supreme Court.

S: And our state Supreme Court is a larger body, isn't it?

M: Five.

S: But this was a territory at the time. So then did you span the time from being a territory through statehood on the Supreme Court?

M: On the Supreme Court, I served one year. Then Hawaii became a state. I told William F. Quinn who was the Governor...he asked me to be a judge. I said, "What position?" He said, "Leave it up to me. Whether Chief

Justice or not, leave it up to me." "Well," I said, "If it's Associate Justice, I'll serve during the transition period so that whoever takes over will know something about the operation of the Supreme Court." Because Stainback was over age; Rice was over age; and they were not eligible. I was the only one. After serving one year, I resigned.

Because I said, "If it's Chief Justice, I'll serve. If it's Associate Justice, I will serve until the transition period is over because there's got to be somebody who knows about the operation."

S: Right. But you didn't ask for Chief Justiceship?

M: He knew it. Quinn should have known because I said, "If it's Chief Justice, I'll serve."

S: Right. So that gave him his clue.

M: Sure. As the Associate Justice I'll serve the interim and then...

S: Go back to practice. So at the end of one year, you opened your office again.

M: At the end of one year I resigned and went into practice with my son Wendell.

S: By that time, yes, he was a lawyer. And then you stayed with your son until...

M: Again until I was appointed by Burns in 1967.

S: Appointed to the Supreme Court again?

M: Appointed to the Supreme Court by Burns.

S: Oh, I didn't realize that. Then how long did you serve on the Supreme Court?

M: Then I served until I became age seventy. Then the Constitutional Convention changed the law so that on a call basis, not as a regular judge, I could serve on a substitute basis. I served until almost two years ago.

S: On a call basis.

Did you enjoy this Supreme Court work?

M: I enjoyed my Supreme Court work with Stainback and Rice. Actually, with Stainback. Stainback was an excellent judge. Whatever idea people may have, he was a brilliant fellow.

S: My father always thought he was a brilliant man. He was very fond of Judge Stainback.

M: Yes, he was very fair.

S: But then, later judges you did not enjoy as much.

M: Not really.

S: Well, you were probably head and shoulders ahead of them anyway. That's very interesting. And after statehood, there were five of you. What was one of the most outstanding cases that you made a decision on when you were a Supreme Court justice?

M: Well, one of the cases is still pending after seventy years, that's the Kauai water rights case.

S: Seventy years?

M: Seventy years. It first started around 1916, and then I wrote an opinion saying that McBryde plantation and another plantation had the right to water and so forth. Then the Richardson court disagreed with me and said the territory owned the water. Just about three months ago the U. S. Supreme Court shoved the case back to San Francisco, disagreeing with that opinion. I think they're going to have a hearing in San Francisco pretty soon.

S: That's a long time for a case to go on.

M: Sure it is, a long time.

S: You would make decisions and then it would be sent onward and then reversed or how would that...?

M: Yes, all of that.

S: I can imagine the file on that must take a whole closet.

M: Oh, Christ. (laughter) When I was first on the Supreme Court, I used to represent Hawaii at the Conference of Chief Justices because Rice never cared to attend those meetings. Then at those meetings...

S: Where were they held?

M: Different places.

S: In the states?

M: Yes, on the mainland, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco. She (indicating Shigeko) and Claire always went with me.

S: You enjoyed going around with the ladies. (laughs)

SM: Oh yes, it was nice, very nice.

M: Then, for instance, certain decisions...that is, a committee would discuss some decision that they considered to be very significant and interesting. In New York an opinion that I wrote was one of the cases that was discussed.

S: Oh, that's very interesting. What case was that?

M: That case was a question regarding the appeal of a criminal case. A very technical case. Another interesting thing was when the Conference of Chief Justices was held in Huntington, California, right near Los Angeles, and the American Bar Association convention was held in Los Angeles.

One of the resolutions in the Conference of Chief Justices was a resolution actually criticizing the U. S. Supreme Court decisions which some thought were too liberal and too protective of criminal elements. And there was a big discussion. Then we had to take a vote and when it came to Hawaii, I wasn't too sure that I had a vote because it was a Conference of State Chief Justices and Hawaii still wasn't a state, so I asked the chairman. I said, "Does Hawaii have a vote in this conference?" The chairman said, "Yes, you do." I said, "If that is the case, then my vote is no." Eight voted against that resolution.

Then right after that conference there was a banquet of the entire American Bar Association delegates, several hundred, over a thousand, at the Hilton in Los Angeles. The members of the Conference of Chief Justices were up on the dias because it was in honor of the Chief Justices, and as I stepped into the dining room Bill Rogers was right there. He was Attorney General then. As soon as I stepped in, Bill Rogers said, "Judge Marumoto, congratulations." I said, "What for?" He said, "For your vote this morning." I was one of the eight who opposed the resolution at the Conference of Chief Justices.

Then after the dinner they had speeches and so forth and then the president of the Conference of Chief Justices, who was Chief Justice of Michigan, justified the vote at that dinner. That was inexcusable.

S: Justified the vote for? You said there were eight against and how many for? Maybe a hundred?

M: No. Fifty states. That is, forty-eight states and two territories.

S: Then there were forty-two for it?

M: Forty-two for it and eight against. And I was one of the eight. Up to then Chief Justice Warren attended every Chief Justices' Conference and dinner and he would be one of the speakers. After that he never attended the Conference of Chief Justices. He was so damn mad about the resolution. And I think it was a poor thing for the Conference of Chief Justices to do.

S: You mean the fact that the Chief Justice of Michigan got up to justify?

M: Yes, justify.

S: I guess that really wouldn't be normal to do, would it?

M: No. Until then, the Chief Justice always attended, but after that he got so damn mad he never attended again.

S: Tell me, when you were on call here for those years, did you also do private legal practice too?

M: No, because they could only call retired justices, not anybody in practice.

SM: Active practice.

S: But you did have quite a bit of private practice though as a lawyer?

SM: Before.

M: Yes, before.

S: But not while you were judge. And then after that you were in private practice and then on call. It's a marvelous career. How many years does it span?

M: Not too long, because it was from 1956 to 1960, five years, and then under Burns' appointment it was six years, eleven years.

S: Well, that's not a short time.

M: I don't think so.

S: Well, I think this is enough for today. We'll come back again and get some more.

END OF TAPE 6/SIDE 1

November 25, 1986

S: You're not on call now, are you? (M nods negatively) But you are active in so many things.

M: Yes, but not in deciding any cases. I don't do any legal work. Actually, I'm working on my autobiography.

S: Very good. How far along have you gotten?

M: Well, I'm taking a long time, but I hope that I will finish it up in the next few months. My biography, sporadically, has been written in the Japanese newspapers. Also, my experiences in the Army have been written and published in the Honolulu Advertiser. What I'm doing is elaborating on that.

S: This is an autobiography,right? (M nods affirmatively) Are you writing it by hand or do you dictate it?

M: It's handwritten because I just don't know how to dictate. I had written about my Army life pretty much in detail to Shigeko and to Wendell and they kept those letters, so they are available. In retrospect, when you read them now, they are very interesting.

When I left Okinawa, I wrote a letter to Wendell in detail about what I did. Up until then, until after VJ day and until the Army released us from prohibition about writing about experiences in the front, I could not write. As soon as the Army gave me permission to write anything, I wrote a long letter to Wendell about what I did in Okinawa. Also, after I came back, and then visited Okinawa again after the war, I wrote an article which was read at a meeting of the Social Science Association and which was published by George Chaplin in the Honolulu Advertiser, word for word, completely. So that more or less in detail shows you what I did on Okinawa.

After Okinawa I went to Korea. Shigeko had kept all the letters that I sent her from Minnesota, from Okinawa and from Korea. I wrote about my experiences in Minnesota, then how I happened to be recommended for Officers' Candidate School. What is written is not an afterthought, but what is written is contemporaneous. So it's very interesting.

S: As it happened.

M: At the time it happened. Shigeko preserved every damn thing.

S: Here's a whole volume over an inch thick of your letters to her and another one of your letters to Wendell.

M: Now my letters to Wendell weren't too long, so I typed it out. Shigeko's were long, so they were handwritten. And it's very interesting because, for instance, these California West Coast second generation Japanese are still fighting to get reparations for being relocated from California. Then certain persons who were interned in Hawaii wanted to ride the bandwagon and also get paid. They said they suffered damages and want to get paid. I'm opposed. Even now I'm opposed. In Hawaii the Japanese weren't the ones who suffered the most; the ones who suffered the most were the Germans. Practically all Germans were interned.

S: Here in Hawaii? I didn't realize that.

M: In Hawaii. A bigger percentage of Italians were interned than Japanese. As far as Japanese were concerned, it was only .9 percent of the Japanese population here. Shigeko's brother was interned because he was a Japanese school principal on Maui before the war started. He was educated in Japan, although born here, and then became a principal of Kahului Japanese language school. Just before the war started, he resigned and came to Honolulu because the Father was not too healthy. He came to run the hat store on Nuuanu Street. Then the war started and he was one of the first to be arrested on the night of December 7.

SM: Because he was a consular agent. All the Japanese school principals were.

M: There were 234 so-called Japanese consular agents.

SM: All the Japanese school principals were, automatically.

M: I wouldn't say <u>all</u>, but many of them were.

SM: They were sort of looked on as leaders in the community.

M: They made no exception as far as the consular agents were concerned, but six months before the war started the Navy wanted at that time every consular agent to be indicted for violating the law which required foreign agents to register. They said these so-called consular agents were foreign agents who came under that law and none of them registered under that law.

SM: They didn't think it was necessary.

M: It was a good thing in Hawaii that internal security was the responsibility of the Army. The Navy wanted all these consular agents to be indicted. The Army took the position that these so-called consular agents did not know that such a law existed, and it was more important to develop their loyalty than punish a few. That's the exact word that General Short sent to Washington and opposed indicting these consular agents. They were not indicted, but then when the war started, the Army decided that in that situation they had no choice but to arrest them. Shigeko's brother was one of them.

S: Was he sent to California or interned here?

M: California. Everyone. Didn't make a difference what occupation they were in; didn't make a difference whether they were American citizens or Japanese nationals. Even American citizens, so long as they had Japanese blood.

S: I didn't realize that citizens were interned.

M: Not in Hawaii. The only ones in Hawaii, there were some citizens who were loud-mouthed and made some statements they shouldn't have made. Also there were some awful haoles who made the report, which was not true, and the Japanese were arrested. I'm not saying who the haoles were, but I'll tell you one of the internees was Frank Arakawa, a very close friend of Shigeko's. I think Shigeko's mother was the go-between when Frank Arakawa was married. He was a First World War veteran. I think he was an officer in the American Army in the First World War. He was the number two county engineer; Yap was the country engineer; he was number two.

A report was made about him, but then also, he was a jolly fellow. Every time a Japanese naval training ship came in, he was the first to go to the ship, take the officers home and drink up.

S: Entertain them and have a good time.

M: Entertain them plus the fact, because of his position as number two engineer, he had access to the Army arsenal in Moanalua. So he knew secrets about the Army arsenal. So there would have been a good reason for arresting him, although I think the main reason wasn't that, but some haole reported him. Anyway, he was arrested and then later when the Army permitted the families to join the husbands who were interned, his family went to the mainland. They didn't have to go, but he wasn't working. There was a question of livelihood. His wife was a Japanese school teacher, but the

Japanese schools were all closed up. So they went. He went to the same camp where Shigeko's brother was.

S: Was that Manzanar?

M: No, this was Jerome, Arkansas. I visited there. I know what kind of place it was. Not bad. I won't say it was good, but it wasn't bad. My second furlough in the Army, instead of going to Chicago to drink up or go to shows, I went to see her brother.

Anyway, he (Frank Arakawa) wanted his family to go there. So his wife and daughters joined him in Jerome. As soon as they joined him, he was an engineer, so he was released and went to work for an architectural firm in Chicago. All through the war he was a very valued man with that firm. And had good pay; had a good life. (laughs)

S: That turned out well for him.

M: Sure it turned out well for him. Now you take Shigeko's brother.

S: Was he married at the time?

M: Oh sure, he was married. He was interned and her father was not healthy and her mother was old. The sister-in-law was running the store, but the brother wanted the family to join him. The only way the family could join him was to go to one of the relocation camps on the mainland. He asked Shigeko whether she could take care of the store to let the sister-in-law and the children go to the mainland. Shigeko agreed to do that. Instead of being in Honolulu, they went to the mainland, first class on the ship.

S: That's nice.

M: Then they went to Jerome. He wasn't proficient in English and didn't have extra skills like this other engineer, so he stayed in Jerome.

S: It was basic and comfortable.

M: It was comfortable, but because there were so many people, the space was limited, so there wasn't the privacy as in their home. Still, the kids were all tiny so it didn't make too much difference. They weren't teenagers.

S: The children went to school there? (M nods affirmatively) And what did Shigeko's brother and his wife do all day long? Did they have any occupation? What did they do?

M: They had no occupation. They just sat around and maybe did some work and got paid ten cents an hour for working. The prisoners of war, that was the standard rate, ten cents an hour. You may say, "Oh my," but in those days ten cents wasn't too bad, you know.

S: It bought a lot more.

M: So Shigeko said, "I'll take over and I'll run the store." One mistake I made was not to have Shigeko draw a salary. Shigeko ran the store all the time the brother was on the mainland and never drew a salary. Not to get cash, but if she had drawn a salary, she would have been on social security today. She missed the chance and I wasn't smart enough to think about it and tell her, "Draw a salary so you will be on social security."

S: But I think in those days we weren't that conscious of social security. It was fairly new.

M: Fairly new.

S: I think she's not lacking for anything now, but it would be nice to have that check coming in every month.

M: I said, "Did you share in the profit?" She said, "No, I never kept a cent." (laughs)

S: Oh, she wouldn't! But didn't the brother offer to give her something.

M: I don't think they thought about those things.

S: Oh yes, she's such a good person that, you know, people like her...

M: Plus the fact that I was...

S: A powerful, successful lawyer.

M: At least they figured she wasn't in need of money, probably. Her father bought a home, the second house from the corner of McCully and Beretania Streets, Kaimuki mauka corner, for $5,000, fee simple, just before the war started. Several years ago the brother sold the property for $148,000. He bought a two-bedroom, fee simple condominium, very nice. He could pay cash from the sale of that house.

S: So he sold the house and bought a condominium.

M: A high rise over there next to the Makiki playground. And his son, because he didn't live in this insular community, got more sociable with other races and he became a Mormon. He's a Mormon bishop.

S: How interesting! He was brought up a Buddhist?

M: Sure. But then what happened was, he worked as an accountant and got infatuated with a Mormon from Salt Lake City, a haole. It didn't work out because this woman's family opposed her marrying an Oriental. They didn't know Orientals because they didn't live here, but at the same time he got acquainted with a wonderful girl from Molokai who was a Mormon. He married her, but before that he went to the University of Minnesota to take accounting and then began to do the accounting for the Mormon Church, and he's now the business manager of the Mormon Church and he's a bishop of the Mormon Church.

S: Here in Hawaii?

M: At Laie. (laughs) Very interesting. And I figure those fellows don't need any compensation. Twenty thousand dollars compensation doesn't mean a thing to them.

S: The people who were put under detention during the war?

M: Yes, not like the people in California who lost their property.

S: Yes, people in California lost physical property, homes and lands and stores.

M: Yes, but I don't think the fellows in Hawaii deserve a cent. You take, for instance, the persons who had retail stores in the Aala Park area, from that road that comes up Iwilei Road along King Street. They never made as much money before the war as they made during the war. And then some of the families, the head of the family was interned because they were very active in the Japanese community, but then the wives ran the store and they cleaned up.

S: Business boomed in Honolulu during the war.

M: Right there because of the station.

S: The station was right there and the soldiers and sailors all came. Right. Once the war was really rolling, money...

M: That's why I'm at loggerheads with the Japanese who don't know the conditions that existed here. They come here from the mainland, and they're shouting about reparations for the Japanese here who were interned. I'm at loggerheads with them. (laughs)

S: How many Japanese from Hawaii, would you say, were interned during World War II?

M: Nine-tenths of one percent of the Japanese in Hawaii, aliens.

S: That must have been about a thousand or not even that.

M: About 900 out of 130,000. Not one hundred percent like in California.

S: And as you say, they didn't really suffer any material loss. But isn't Dan Inouye very keen for the Japanese in Hawaii...?

M: I'm not too sure. You take Dan Inouye's father-in-law. He died, but he made enough money to send, after the war, his daughter, who became Dan Inouye's wife, to Columbia. Then the older sister helped him run the store. He ran a jewelry store and you know how much the trinkets sold for.

S: Yes, my father was a merchant and he made money during the war.

M: Another thing. When the war started, Spark Matsunaga was a second lieutenant in the Army because he was in ROTC before tthe war started. He was activated. He was on Molokai as a second lieutenant with the National Guard or whatever Army unit there was on Molokai. On the Saturday before the December 7th Sunday, they had nothing to do so they said, "Let's go deer hunting." The following morning they began to see funny airplanes with the Rising Sun and they thought, "This looks funny. Maybe we better not go hunting." So they didn't go hunting. Then the war started.

Sparky's father was a Shinto priest. He was a pineapple grower but a part-time Shinto priest on Kauai.

S: Is he still alive?

M: He may be dead. I don't know. He's probably dead. But Sparky heard, and this is something that most people here don't know, that his father was arrested as soon as the war started because he was a Shinto priest. Sparky found out the name of the commanding officer of the U. S. Army on Kauai. His name was Brigadier General Anderson and he was a little different from the others. Sparky got in touch with him and stated to him who he was, where he was and why he was calling. He said that he was a second lieutenant on guard duty on Molokai. He said, "I've got some information that my father was arrested because of his religious connection." Then this Brigadier General said, "Let me check."

In no time, maybe half a day or a day, in no time he found about Sparky's father and Sparky's background and released him immediately. He said, "I cannot keep the father

of an Army officer detained." He was released right away. People don't know that.

S: That was very, very unusual, but a very compassionate and sensible thing to do. Sparky's father, I take it, was Japan born.

M: Yes. And he worked as a longshoreman, too. Sparky used to help him during summer vacation unloading freight and so forth. This is from Sparky's own mouth to me. People don't know that he called General Anderson. I knew General Anderson.

S: He must have been a fine, unusual man.

M: He was an unusual man. Kauai Japanese had the best morale. They were the first ones to organize the so-called "kiawe corps" for Japanese volunteers, civilian volunteers, to go to the kiawe bushes to cut the kiawes down to prevent the enemy if they landed, from hiding behind those kiawe trees.

END OF TAPE 7/SIDE 1

ADDENDUM

When the Supreme Court of Hawaii was established in 1846, there was one justice of Hawaiian blood who served until 1862, but after his retirement, all justices were Caucasians. When Judge Marumoto was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1956, he became the first non-Caucasian justice in 94 years and the first in the U. S.

Judge Marumoto was the first person of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii to be:

1. Admitted to the Judge Advocate General's School, U. S. Army, Ann Arbor, Michigan, in World War II. Judge Marumoto was the first Oriental.

2. President of the Hawaii Bar Association. Elected in 1954.

3. Chairman, compilation commission, Revised Laws of Hawaii, 1955.

4. Director of Ewa Plantation, a Big Five plantation. Elected at the 1955 annual meeting, upon the recommendation of Alexander Budge, president of Castle & Cooke, and served until his judicial appointment in 1956. At the time of his election, there were twenty-seven sugar plantations in Hawaii, and Ewa was the sixth or seventh largest in volume of production.

5. Director of Waialae Country Club. Elected at the 1957 annual meeting and served for three years. Waialae began to admit Orientals to membership on a limited basis in 1951. Judge Marumoto was the first Oriental to become a director.

6. Director of Bank of Hawaii. Elected at the 1961 annual meeting and served until he was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Burns in 1967. Election was recommended by Walter Dillingham, chairman of the board, and Rudolph Peterson, president.

7. Director of Hawaii Newspaper Agency. Elected in 1961 and served until 1967. As a corporation the Agency had a board of five directors, of whom two were designated by the Star-Bulletin, two by the Advertiser, and the fifth a neutral member elected jointly by the two newspapers. Judge Marumoto was the neutral member.

8. Director of Queen's Hospital, now Queen's Medical Center. Elected in 1961 and served until 1967.

9. Chairman, Hawaii State Chapter of the American Red Cross. Elected in 1966 and served until 1967.

10. Director and Judge Advocate of the Honolulu Council, Navy League of the United States. The Navy League is a civilian organization concerned with promoting the interests of the U. S. Navy. Before Judge Marumoto was admitted as a member in 1959, the League consisted solely of Caucasian members. Served several years as director and legal advisor.

Judge Marumoto also played a major role in the organization of the Japan-America Society of Honolulu in 1976 and served as its president for two terms.

(Provided by Judge Marumoto)

August 1987

SUBJECT INDEX

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Watumull Foundation Oral History Project began in June of 1971. During the following seventeen months eighty-eight people were taped. These tapes were transcribed but had not been put in final form when the project was suspended at the end of 1972.

In 1979 the project was reactivated and the long process of proofing, final typing and binding began. On the fortieth anniversary of the Watumull Foundation in 1982 the completed histories were delivered to the three repositories.

As the value of these interviews was realized, it was decided to add to the collection. In November of 1985 Alice Sinesky was engaged to interview and edit thirty-three histories that have been recorded to mark the forty-fifth anniversary of the Foundation.

The subjects for the interviews are chosen from all walks of life and are people who are part of and have contributed to the history of Hawaii.

The final transcripts, on acid-free Permalife bond paper and individually Velo-bound, are deposited and are available to scholars and historians at the Hawaii State Archives, the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii and the Cooke Library at Punahou School. The tapes are sealed and are not available.

August 1987